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ABS, GMA tie in 5 Star Awards categories

Lifestyle / C1

Mineral powder: Foundation, concealer, powder

Tanong ng Bayan / A20

Halloween sa 'Pinas: Gaya-gaya o Pinoy talaga?

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Reyes tells probers: You're destroying AFP

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE MAN who used to command the country's Armed Forces had two sharp messages to lawmakers looking into alleged corruption in the military:

You may be destroying the Armed Forces of the Philippines—and leave my mother alone.

REYES/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Colonel Rabusa under house arrest

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Alcuin Papa

UNDER mounting pressure to stamp out corruption in its ranks, the Armed Forces has placed under house arrest a colonel alleged to have amassed unexplained wealth, as it prepares to open this week the trial of a general also accused of enriching himself while in office.

COLONEL/ A4

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Tuesday, October 26, 2004 ★★ ~~48~~ 52 pages / 3 sections / vol. 19 / no. 321 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Miriam exposes AFP 'Gang of 12'

Senator details graft in staff commands

"LEAVE my mother alone," Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes tells congressmen. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Michael Lim Ubac

A "GANG OF 12" presides over the Armed Forces of the Philippines which loses about P2 billion a year to the group's unlawful practice of "clearance and conversion," administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said yesterday.

Santiago, whose brother served as AFP chief of staff in the Arroyo administration, said "clearance" involved the falsification of public documents, and "conversion" the malversation of public funds.

In a privilege speech, Santiago said the "Gang of 12" was made up of the chief of staff and his 11 staff generals (J-1 to J-11)

J-1 is for Personnel; J-2, Intelligence; J-3, Operations; J-4, Logistics; J-5, Plans; J-6, Comptroller; J-7, Civil Military Operations; J-8, Training; J-9, AFP Modernization; J-10, Reservists, and J-11, Communications.

The gang leads the "mob" or "mafia" that has institutionalized military corruption since martial law days, according to the senator.

Santiago described the generals as some of "the most hypocritical, meretricious and lecherous public officials in this corrupt country."

She said the gang engaged in organized corruption through the so-called "clearance and conversion process."

"To 'clear' an official check for military funds means to fill up all necessary forms, particularly purchase orders, with fake entries and signatures, in order to support the encashment of the check."

To "convert" a check means to encash it on the basis of fake docu-

MIRIAM/ A6

World oil reaches new high; Arroyo warns of tough times

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged Filipinos to brace themselves for higher prices and increased power rates as world crude prices scaled a new high above $55 per barrel.

US light crude set a fresh peak of $55.67 per barrel, while London Brent posted a record $51.90 as threats by Norwegian ship owners to halt production in the world's third biggest exporter stoked fears of a winter supply crunch. World prices are up 70 percent since the start of the year.

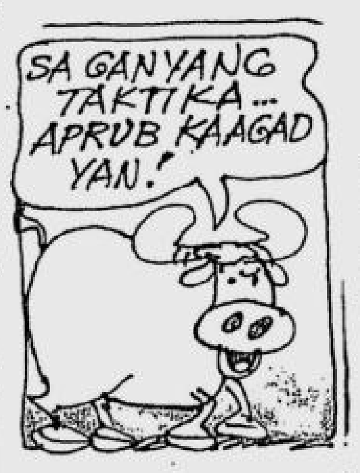
The Norwegian Shipowners Association threatened to expand a lockout of oil rig workers to shut Norway's three million barrels per day oil output in a bid to end a nearly four-month labor dispute.

The new threat boosted a market already jittery over a supply outage in the US Gulf, which has disrupted the normal stockpiling of heating fuel ahead of winter. Hurricane Ivan, which tore through the Gulf of Mexico in mid-September, has slashed more than 400,000 barrels per day of crude output.

During a breakfast forum of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, Ms Arroyo said Filipinos should brace themselves for tough times. She, however, voiced confidence she would prove doomsayers wrong by implementing reforms that would turn the economy around.

"Power rates will go up before

WORLD OIL/ A6



SA GANYANG TAKTIKA... APRUB KAAGAD YAN!

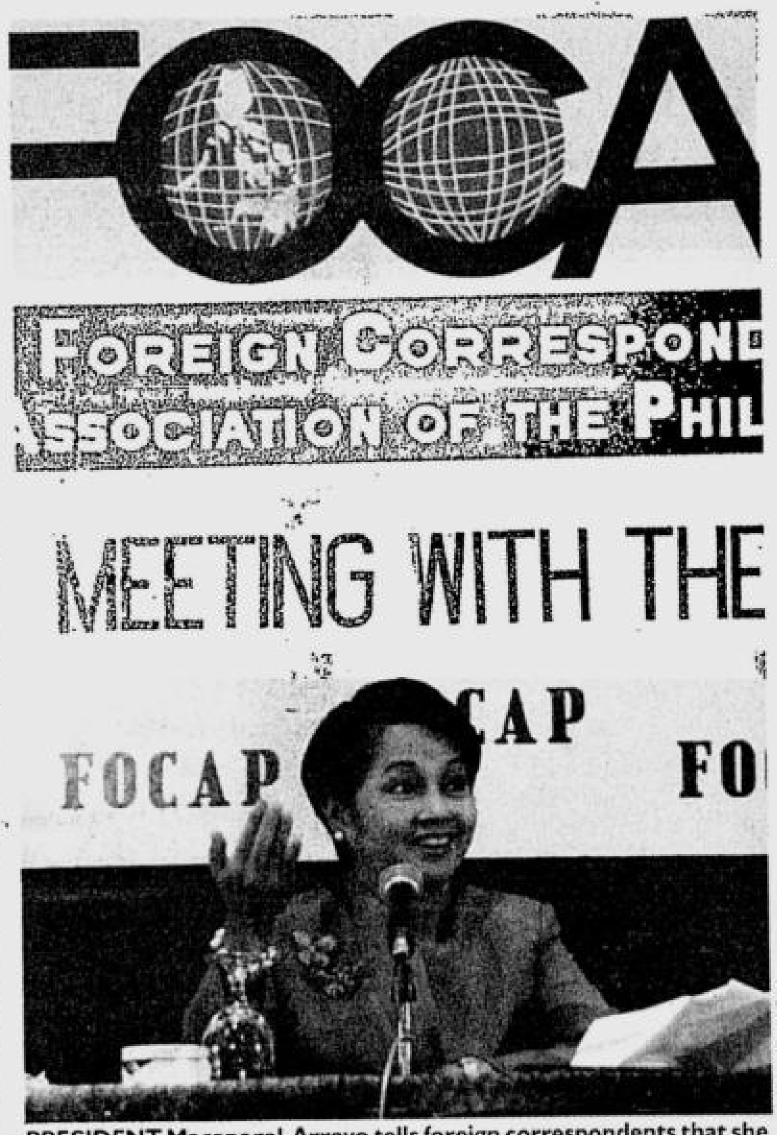
Guess who's coming to GMA dinner at Forbes Park

THE PERSONAL touch just might do the trick.

President Macapagal-Arroyo invited last night San Miguel Corp. CEO Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., Fortune Tobacco chair Lucio Tan and Philip Morris Philippines managing director Chris Nelson to her Forbes Park residence to enlist their support for her proposed taxes on "sin products" (cigarettes and alcohol).

The meeting was confirmed by two of the corporations invited by the President, who is pinning her hopes on the swift passage of the indexation of taxes on cigarettes and alcohol pro-

GUESS/ A6



VAL HANDUMON

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo tells foreign correspondents that she will prove doomsayers wrong by turning the economy around. *(Related story on Page A3.)*

3 Basilan informers each get ₱18.7M

By TJ Burgonio

US EMBASSY officials yesterday rewarded three Basilan residents with P18.7 million each for providing vital information that led to the killing of an Abu Sayyaf gang leader.

US Embassy deputy chief Joseph Mussomeli handed over brown suitcases containing stacks of P1,000 bills to two men and one woman in a tightly guarded ceremony at the provincial hospital in Isabela, Basilan.

The three informants, who wore baseball caps and hid their faces under thick brown stockings, each wordlessly accepted the P18.7 million. Their identities were being kept secret for security reasons.

"It takes courage to do what these three people have done, which makes them exactly the opposite of those we fight against," Mussomeli said, calling the Abu Sayyaf bandits cowards for terrorizing the weak and the helpless.

3 BASILAN/ A18

Brazilian named Miss Earth

PRISCILLA Meirelles, a medical student from Brazil, was named Miss Earth 2004 on Sunday, winning a beauty pageant that promotes environmental concerns.

Twenty-one-year-old Meirelles beat 60 other candidates for the title.

There were no first or runner-up finishers in the competition with each of the final four receiving a title. Yanina Gonzales, a 24-year-old marketing student from Paraguay, was named Miss Fire; Murielle Celemene, an 18-year-old student from Martinique, was Miss Air, and Stephanie Lesage, a 20-year-old social economics student from Tahiti, was Miss Water.

The Miss Earth pageant, launched three years ago by a Philippine production outfit, re-

BRAZILIAN/ A18

JOSEPH AGCAOILI

MISS Earth 2004 is Brazil's Priscilla Meirelles (2nd from left). She is flanked by runners-up (from left) Paraguay's Yanina Gonzales, Miss Fire; Martinique's Murielle Celemene, Miss Air, and Tahiti's Stephanie Lesage, Miss Water.

Metro quake scenario: 147,000 dead, injured

IT WOULD take just seconds: 147,000 people would be dead or wounded, entire neighborhoods would be swallowed up by the earth, and hundreds of fires would raze structures still standing in Metro Manila.

As Japan reels from Saturday's earthquake that left 25 people dead, city planners of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority are taking seriously the threat of a major earthquake after a two-year study by Japanese and Filipino seismologists.

The research has triggered a review of the capital's rescue units. Changes to the country's building code and land use laws are also being considered, according to Ramon Santiago, MMDA director for special operations and public safety.

"These are worst-case scenarios, and these are planning figures. These may not necessarily happen," Santiago added.

But the figures are worrying nevertheless.

A 7.2-magnitude quake with the epicenter within city limits could kill up to 33,000 and destroy 175,000 of its 1.3 million-plus buildings, according to the Metropolitan Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study that was completed in March.

As some 500 simultaneous fires erupt from the wreckage, doctors would triage the 114,000 injured outside Manila hospitals with a combined capacity of just 10,000 beds. Three million residents would flee the city.

The last time the capital faced a similar level of destruction was during World War II when American forces were liberating Manila

METRO QUAKE/ A5

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol Region and Eastern Visayas will experience mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: M. TOLOSA, PDI RESEARCH/10/26/04

PNP begins 'morale check' in the ranks

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE LEADERSHIP of the Philippine National Police has begun a "morale check" in the 115,000-strong force in the wake of the streaming allegations of large-scale corruption in the military and in the PNP itself.

Director Avelino Razon Jr. led the way by sending a memorandum to top officials and field commanders of the National Capital Region Police Office.

On top of the memorandum, he has also been visiting police district offices and stations to personally check on the morale of policemen and "to keep them informed about the position of the PNP leadership on current issues."

So far, he said, morale remained "high."

In the memorandum, Razon asked his men not to buy the coup rumors now circulating as a result of supposed widespread demoralization in the ranks of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and even the PNP.

Exploiters

The rumors were coming from "those" who want to exploit the corruption scandal now rocking the military, he said, without elaborating.

The AFP is in the eye of a storm because of allegations that its former comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia—and possibly other top officials—had enriched themselves while in the service.

Garcia stands accused of putting away a multimillion-peso stash consisting of currency and real estate both here and abroad.

Large-scale graft

As the military controversy raged, a number of police officers had revealed similar large-scale corruption in the PNP.

In separate interviews, the sources detailed how some top police officials were making millions through fund conversion, turning requisition orders into cash, and through the "much more lucrative" scheme involving personnel services and salaries.

Despite the allegations, Razon was optimistic the country could "withstand the crisis as it has a strong justice system that could ensure that justice and the rule of law will prevail."

"Let's focus on our tasks and responsibilities; let us not be bothered by this scandal," he said, urging PNP officers in a statement to hasten reforms within the police organization.

Continuing activity

The reforms include the lifestyle check the PNP's anti-graft body, the Internal Affairs Service, is conducting initially on all generals and full colonels (senior superintendents).

Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP information officer, yesterday described the IAS investigation as a "continuing activity, not just a knee-jerk reaction" to the corruption controversy.

(Dedicated to the memory of the Bach, Goethe or Einstein --- killed by Indifference and Greed --- who must have sprung but never grew to live in the mind of the Filipino Child)

THE NINETY-FIVE THESES OF TEXTBOOK REFORM

Recommendations geared towards a top-to-bottom reform in the country's textbook program, in order to achieve quality in the Philippine educational system, as stipulated in the Constitution.

Declaration of Textbook Policy

Section 10 of Republic Act 8047 (Book Publishing Industry Development Act) mandates the Department of Education (DepEd) to evaluate, select and approve the textbooks that will be used in all public schools nationwide. The DepEd must prescribe and recommend, by means of a new and final List of Approved Textbooks, which books are to be used in public primary and secondary schools. These textbooks must have passed the evaluation (content) and quality production standards (form) of the Department. Only textbooks included in this List may be adopted by the local school boards.

Student Access to Textbooks

The DepEd should endeavor to provide one textbook per pupil/student per subject in all public schools. The textbooks that a class is using for a particular subject should be uniform, meaning to say: of the same title, same author/s, same publisher and same edition. The DepEd should prescribe a single title per subject per grade/year level in schools within a region.

Textbook Procurement

The DepEd shall procure quality textbooks from the educational publishing industry following accepted government procurement laws. The bidding and awarding of contracts must be monitored by a body or bodies outside of the DepEd's own Bids and Awards Committee.

Textbooks shall be purchased every five years. In the years thereafter, these books should be subjected to a review to determine whether they will still be adopted for the next five years or not. Books should be changed when they are no longer relevant or adequate. The DepEd should purchase textbooks by series (not individual subject and title) in subjects (English, Science and Math) which need to show curricular continuity and progression.

Foreign-assisted projects supported by loan covenants require international competitive bidding. The bidding and awarding of contracts must be closely monitored and regulated. **The printing of textbooks in other countries must not be made a condition of these loan agreements.** Philippine public school textbooks should be printed in the Philippines, because this will generate jobs and income for Filipinos and not foreigners.

The distribution and delivery of textbooks must likewise be closely monitored and supervised. Overseers must come from the non-government sector.

The Process of Evaluation

1. The DepEd shall oversee a textbook evaluation process that includes the expert judgment of accredited academicians, educators, education administrators, and subject and curriculum specialists.

2. A two-step process of evaluation should be implemented:

a. Two evaluators from the private sector;

b. Two reviewers from the DepEd itself, with one reviewer coming from a newly-constituted **Textbook Reform and Development Commission** and the other sourced from either the Bureau of Elementary Education (in the case of grade school books) or the Bureau of Secondary Education (for high school books) to validate the recommendation of the two evaluators from the private sector.

3. Only textbooks which get the approval of at least three members of the Evaluating Panel will be adopted.

4. The identities of both evaluators and reviewers must not be kept secret. Their names must in fact appear on the cover of the book which they approved.

5. Evaluators must not include employees of the DepEd.

6. Evaluators and reviewers must not be related in any way to any of the authors or publisher of the book which they are reviewing.

7. Evaluators must be paid a sum which is commensurate to the gravity of the task assigned to them. Raise the honorarium from the present P1,500 or P1,800 to anywhere from P5,000 to P20,000 (depending on the number of pages) per book per evaluator. This fee should be charged to the publisher wanting to have his book reviewed.

8. Evaluators must be given ample time within which to review the textbooks assigned to them: at least two weeks for each grade school book and one month or more for each high school book.

9. Evaluators must be given complete freedom and mobility to conduct research and study while in the course of reviewing textbooks.

Textbook Standards (Content)

The DepEd shall establish the necessary standards (form and content) to guide the local textbook industry in the development of new instructional materials. All previously approved titles must undergo review and re-evaluation. To check for integrity in the area of content, the following concerns must be taken into account:

- Factual errors
- Conceptual errors
- Biases and prejudices (racial, religious, cultural, social and gender)
- Negative influences on moral virtues or values

All textbooks approved by the DepEd and included in its List should contain **no more than twenty (20) grave errors.** Twenty grave errors in a textbook effectively render it defective. Approved textbooks should require **no more than minor corrections and revisions.**

The Canon of Philippine Literature (a collection of literary pieces prescribed by the DepEd for high school reading) must be reviewed and upgraded. Selections such as Paul Dumol's detestable Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio (which contains that now-famous passage: Payat na payat, tuyung-tuyo pa; walang alinlangang wala siyang modta) and Jun Cruz Reyes' sacrilegious and offensive Utos ng Hari should be excluded from the new list of prescribed selections.

The DepEd must publish a comprehensive list of names, terms, events, technical innovations and scientific processes that should not be translated into Filipino (Dakilang Pader for Great Wall of China; madidilaw na tao for yellow race; kalahating kapatid for half-brother; etc.)

The Need for Legislative Intervention

1. The mandate of the DepEd includes accountability for the quality of basic education. Its duty is to conduct a thorough and objective evaluation of all textbooks in use with the interest of the general public as the foremost consideration. A law must be passed declaring the making of defective textbooks, whether used in public or private schools, **a crime with a corresponding punishment.** When a textbook in use is found to be defective, its authors, editors, publisher, and the DepEd evaluators and reviewers who passed it should be held criminally liable; all of these elements should be made to shoulder, in equal portions, the total cost of correction and revision, aside from the criminal liabilities.

2. Textbooks must be included in the list of goods, projects and services covered by the Government Procurement Reform Law (RA 9184).

3. The Instructional Materials Council Secretariat (IMCS) and other related agencies with similar functions should be dissolved and a new body --- the **Textbook Reform and Development Commission** --- installed in their place. All previous transactions of the DepEd pertaining to the procurement, evaluation and delivery of textbooks must be reviewed.

4. The National Book Development Board which has not done anything to develop and improve the quality of Philippine textbooks should be abolished.

5. Because the 2002 Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) is used as a guide in the development of textbooks, the BEC itself must be reviewed and re-examined. The lumping together of six or more unrelated subjects in the general subject now known as MAKABAYAN is very very wrong. The onerous practice of the Three-Shift Session (three classes using the same classroom one after the other in one day) presently being implemented in many public schools must be discontinued. There must be Science subjects in Grades One and Two. The continuing bastardization of our National Language (manifest in the BEC's Secondary Filipino Language Curriculum) must be stopped.

6. Every citizen must be given the right to look into the quality of textbooks being used in the public schools without fear of harassment or retaliation.

ANTONIO CALIPJO GO
Academic Supervisor
MARIAN SCHOOL OF QUEZON CITY
199 Sauyo Road,
Novaliches, QC

ADVT

Zamboanga turns monitors away

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Mayor Celso Lobregat yesterday turned down a plan to house a foreign truce-monitoring team in this city, fearing the move could invite violence.

The refusal prompted officials to look for other bases for the 60 Malaysian and Bruneian peacekeepers, who arrived in the Philippines earlier this month to lay the groundwork for overseeing a year-old cease-fire between Muslim rebels and the government.

The truce is seen as crucial to the success of Malaysian-brokered peace talks aimed at ending a bloody insurgency by the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Mindanao.

At least five bases were planned for the peacekeepers, including one in Zamboanga City which hosts the headquarters of the military's Southern Command.

But Lobregat opposed the opening of a barracks for the monitors, saying that it would attract armed Muslim guerrillas and disrupt the city's fragile peace, violate a gun ban, and sully its image among tourists and investors.

The mayor said the guerrillas would inevitably establish a presence in the city alongside the monitors, because rebels had been assigned to guard the foreign observers jointly with government troops.

He argued that mostly Christian Zamboanga was not an area of conflict, and that foreign peacekeepers should be based elsewhere on Mindanao, closer to where gunbattles often broke out.

While the city supports the peace talks, Lobregat said Zamboanga residents opposed the presence of Muslim guerrillas after a 2001 bloody siege by another group of Islamic rebels that saw at least 25 guerrillas, two soldiers and one civilian killed.

"We only recognize one government, one armed forces," Lobegat told dzRH radio.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said the peacekeepers' presence was crucial to the success of the peace talks, which are scheduled to resume soon.

"Guns will be turned into plowshares in erstwhile conflict-affected communities," Ms Arroyo told reporters yesterday sounding upbeat about the growing prospects for peace in the south. *AP*

No link between Erap, excise tax, says prober

By Armand N. Nocum

AN OFFICIAL of the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday testified that there was "absolutely nothing" to link ousted President Joseph Estrada and his son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada to the P130-million tobacco excise tax Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson gave to the Estradas in 1998.

Appearing as the seventh witness for the defense, former NBI Deputy Director Carlos Saunar said the Land Bank documents of the money transfer did not contain the names of the Estradas.

"Absolutely nothing," Saunar said when asked by lawyer Raymond Fortun if the Estrada name ever surfaced during the Aug. 30-31, 1998, money transfer from the Land Bank Vigan branch to its Shaw Boulevard branch where the money was withdrawn.

Saunar, who was then head of the NBI's anti-graft division, had investigated Singson's alleged unliquidated cash advances and jueteng commissions after the governor made his exposé.

Singson claimed the P130 million was part of Estrada's P170-million kickback from the tobacco excise tax.

This is one of the four predicate cases in the P4.1-billion plunder suit filed against Estrada in the Sandiganbayan.

Singson said he was ordered by Estrada to facilitate the withdrawal of the money from Land Bank on Shaw Blvd. The money was withdrawn by Alma Alfaro, Delia Rajas and Eleuterio Tan, said to be employees of Charlie "Atong" Ang.

Singson then brought the money – stuffed in paper bags – to Estrada's home on Polk Street, Greenhills.

Estrada reportedly got P70 million, Senators Loi Estrada and Jinggoy received P20 million and P15 million, respectively, while Ang took P25 million.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said Saunar's testimony was biased.

He said Saunar met with defense lawyers and brought with him documents of his investigation of Singson prior to his appearance in court.

"That is unethical. He should have asked permission (from his superiors before meeting with defense lawyers)," Villa-Ignacio said after the hearing.

BIR appeals Tan's ₱1-B refund

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue yesterday asked the Court of Appeals to reconsider its decision granting businessman Lucio Tan a P1.036 billion tax refund.

The BIR said Tan's Fortune Tobacco Corp. may even owe the government P12.37 billion in underpaid excise taxes.

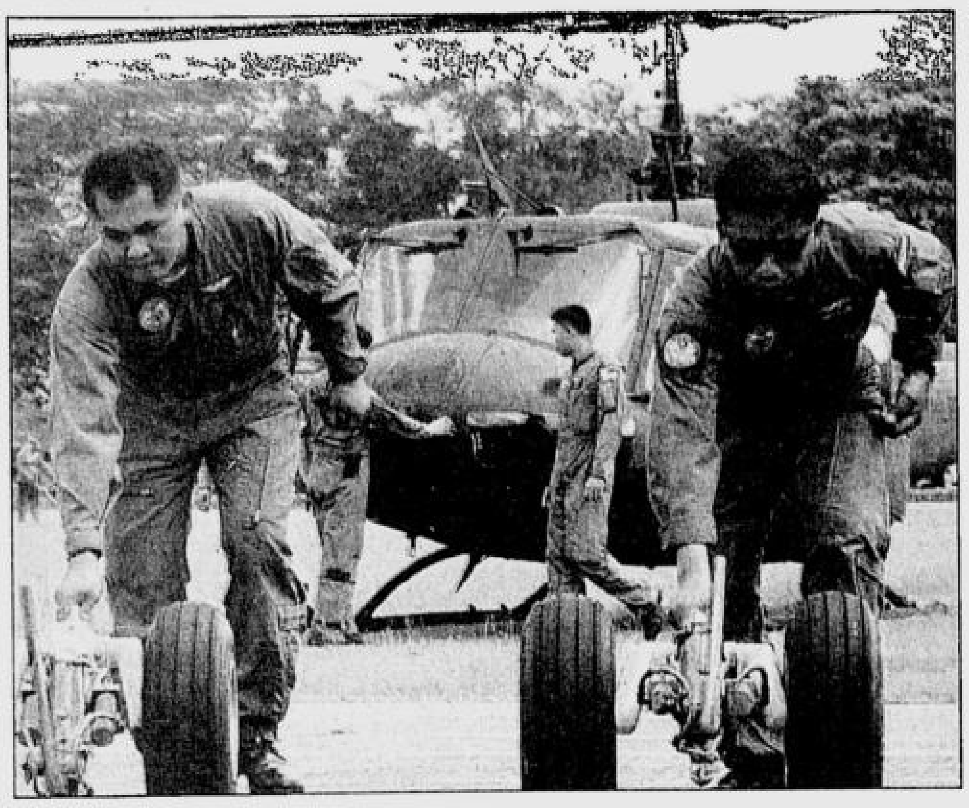
In a 20-page motion for reconsideration, the BIR asked the appellate court to reconsider its ruling, saying the intent of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 was to increase tax collection.

The BIR said that while Section 45 of the Tax Code was "ambiguous," it should not be interpreted by the court in a way that would give Tan a billion-peso tax refund.

"The interpretation of the law must be that which will give life to its legislative purpose, not one that will kill its intent, which in this case is to increase the collection of taxes," the BIR said.

The court had ruled on Sept. 28 that Fortune Tobacco should get a P1,035,772,945 refund for the excess taxes it paid from 2000 to 2002.

The appellate court upheld a Court of Tax Appeals ruling that said BIR Revenue Regulation No.17-99, under which the excess taxes were collected, was illegal. *Philip C. Tubeza*



NEW OLD CHOPPERS FOR AFP
The Armed Forces of the Philippines yesterday took delivery of three refurbished UH-1H helicopters from Singapore Technologies Aerospace Engineering, part of the 20-helicopter order from the firm under the AFP modernization program. The 20 helicopters, costing a total of P659.8 million, are equipped with night-flying equipment.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Bush or Kerry? GMA won't say who she's for

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

TAKING a diplomatic neutral position on the United States presidential election, President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed confidence Philippine relations with its former colonizer would remain strong and vigorous.

"I don't speculate on the politics of another country," she said after she was asked at the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines forum yesterday if she believed RP-US relations would change if Democratic candidate Sen. John Kerry defeated US President George W. Bush in November.

No meddling in US politics

Ms Arroyo did not even want to say if supporting the US-led invasion of Iraq had been the right thing to do.

"It's a political issue that is being used in the US political campaign and, as I said, since I don't want to meddle in the politics of another country, I don't think it is right for me to comment on the righteousness of that war," she told the annual meeting of Philippine correspondents of international news organizations.

But she said Philippine support for the war against terror "greatly enhanced" the country's capacity to fight local terror groups.

"What I can say is that we've tried our best to be a good ally and it's been mutually beneficial. I think our partnership with our allies in the war against terrorism, regardless of whether some of the details were correct or not in the policies of our allies, has brought us a lot of capability to upgrade our own military and defense forces to win our own battles," Ms Arroyo said.

'Debatable issues'

She said the legality of the war on Iraq was for an international court to decide.

She said the question of whether the world had become a better place after the US drove Saddam Hussein from power was one of the "debatable issues."

"My main concern is, of course, our safety in our own country and what I can say is that we have been able to really degrade the capability of the terrorists, especially the Abu Sayyaf, and we're working on degrading the capability of communist terrorists," she said.

Ms Arroyo said that judging by newspaper headlines, RP-US relations were "as vigorous as ever" despite her decision to withdraw Filipino troops from Iraq to save the life of truck driver Angelo de la Cruz in July.

She said countries may share the same goals even if they do not always walk on the same road.

'Partner, not master'

"And I suppose the Angelo de la Cruz case, while it was a shocker to our allies in the beginning, did demonstrate that we look upon our allies as partners, rather than our masters," Ms Arroyo said.

She said that despite the controversy, the Philippines remained committed to fighting terrorism and was one of the "success stories" in that regard.

She said any country considers its foreign policy an instrument of its national interest.

"And I believe that while it (withdrawal from Iraq) was surprising in the beginning, I think our allies have come to understand that," she said.

Increased assistance

She said this was evident after the US released some of its $50-million "peace dividend" to Mindanao even before the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front signed a peace accord.

She said the US Senate had also just approved "increased" military assistance to the Philippines.

"So I'm very grateful for these signs of a continuing vigorous relationship with the US and our other allies and I'm glad they see these relationships in a very mature light," she said.

Former dean would take UP into the mainstream

By Volt Contreras

A MORE media-savvy UP? *Iskolars ng Bayan* mounting intelligent TV shows?

About time, says Dr. Georgina Encanto, one of the candidates for next president of the University of the Philippines.

For the veteran mass communication and journalism professor, the public has been missing out on the wealth of scientific research, sociopolitical discourses and other creative output churned out by UP students, faculty and think tanks.

Greater impact

In a recent interview, Encanto said she hoped to see more of the kind of impact generated by the "UP 11"—the group of economics professors who warned in a paper that the country was headed toward economic collapse unless the government reined in the ballooning budget deficit and foreign debt.

Not everyone may agree with the UP 11, Encanto said, but the publicity their work generated was an example of how the university could "get back into the mainstream."

From the latest findings in the natural sciences, to the avant garde visions of "Peyups" film students and writers, to the advocacies of the various UP centers of excellence, all these "may just go to waste because we've not been that outspoken," Encanto, 58, said.

"*Sayang*, because they relate to our current issues and problems. We have not really found a way to use the media to disseminate [all this information]," she said.

UP colleges and study centers representing the various disciplines should be more aggressive in translating their rather technical materials for a lay audience, she said.

Airtime for UP shows

She said she would explore the possibility of securing airtime for UP-produced educational programs, especially in the government-owned networks.

In an earlier talk with the press, Encanto said she hoped to realize her plans by finding new funding sources outside the cash-strapped government. She noted that UP competes with over 100 state colleges and universities for subsidies.

Hoping to be at its helm when UP marks its centennial on June 18, 2008, Encanto spoke of tapping alumni resources and forging "mutually beneficial" linkages with the business community.

Centennial candidate

Encanto is one of 10 candidates being considered by the UP Board of Regents to succeed current president Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo.

The board, which governs UP's seven campuses, 14,000 faculty members and more than 50,000 students nationwide, is expected to announce its decision on Nov. 17.

Encanto graduated with an AB English and Comparative Literature degree, magna cum laude, from the UP in 1967. She obtained her masters degree at Brandeis University in the United States. She became dean of the UP Institute of Mass Communication at age 39 in 1985 and served until 1991.

ATTENTION LAWYERS!

The deadline for the first compliance period of the **Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)** is on December 31, 2004. *Have you fully complied?*

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Date	*Credit Units/Subject Per Bar Matter 850*	*Lecturer*
☐ **Nov. 13 a.m.**	2/MCLE Prescribed: Technology & the Law	Atty. Ivan John E. Uy
	2/Oral Advocacy	Justice Magdangal M. De Leon
☐ **Nov. 13 p.m.**	2/Updates in Criminal Law	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta
	3/Updates in Constitutional & Election Law	Justice Regalado E. Maambong
☐ **Nov. 20 a.m.**	2/Trial & Pre-trial Skills	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
	2/MCLE Prescribed: Environmental Law	Justice Oswaldo Agcaoili
☐ **Nov. 20 p.m.**	3/Legal Ethics	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.
	2/International Law	Prof. Harry H.L. Roque, Jr.
☐ **Nov. 27 a.m.**	2/Legal Writing	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez, Jr.
	2/Updates in Civil & Criminal Procedure	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
☐ **Nov. 27 p.m.**	3/Altenative Dispute Resolution	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
	2/Updates in Remedial Law	Justice Ricardo P. Galvez
☐ **Dec. 04 a.m.**	2/Altenative Dispute Resolution	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan
	2/Trial & Pre-trial Skills	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
☐ **Dec. 04 p.m.**	3/Legal Ethics	Justice Ruben T. Reyes
	2/MCLE Prescribed: Technology & the Law	Justice Regalado E. Maambong

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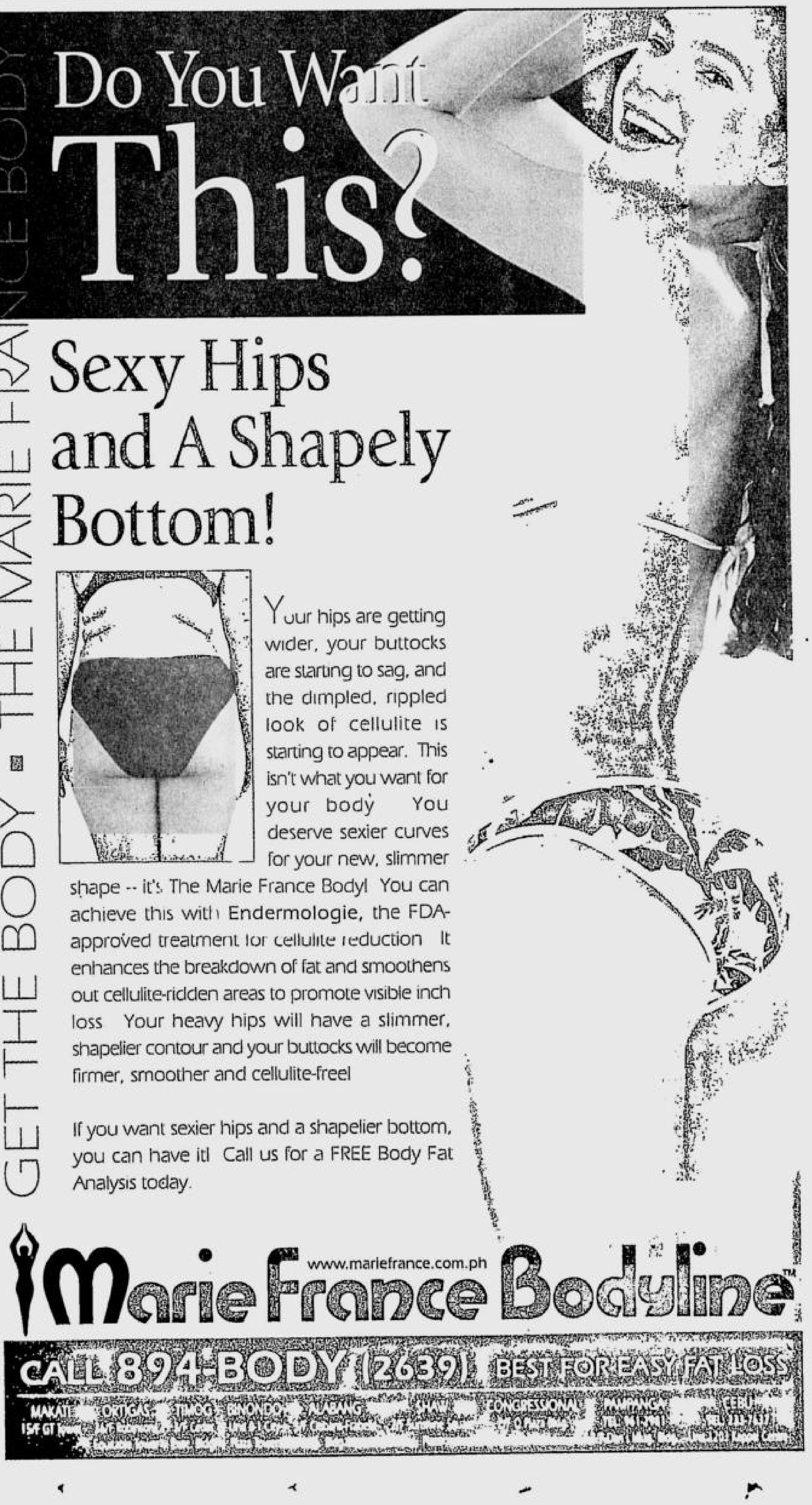

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MAKATI ORTIGAS TIMOG BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL CEBU

Colonel Rabusa under house arrest

From page A1

Vowing there would be no whitewash, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the start before Friday of court-martial proceedings against former military comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

Her order coincided with a military announcement that Garcia's former budget officer, Army Col. George Rabusa, had also been "restricted to quarters"—or house arrest, in civilian terms—like his former boss.

"The honor of the Filipino soldier is at stake, and I am confident that the judges in uniform will conduct themselves with absolute fealty to the Constitution, the people and the command," Ms Arroyo told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, which comprises journalists from 65 international news organizations.

Ms Arroyo said she had ordered outgoing Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya to start court-martial proceedings against Garcia "before he (Abaya) retires on Friday."

"There shall be no whitewash in the investigation and prosecution of anomalies in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, RSBS (Retirement and Separation Benefits System) and any other investigations for that matter," she declared.

No firing frenzy

But she said she would not be stampeded into a firing frenzy by critics and groups using the corruption scandal in the Armed Forces to try and put down her government.

"I have no sympathy at all for grafters and their lame excuses. But on the other hand, I will not allow the terrorist insurgents and their fronts and grandstanders to be my hiring and firing committee," Ms Arroyo said.

In a press conference, AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Rabusa had been restricted to his quarters in Camp Aguinaldo effective last Saturday.

"The purpose of this restriction is to make Lt. Col. Rabusa available for any investigation involving him in connection with reports and allegations of unexplained wealth," Adan said.

Under guard

This means Rabusa can move around only under guard and with the permission of his commanding officer, Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo of the AFP's Headquarters Service Command.

Adan said initial charges against Rabusa were dropped by the Ombudsman in February last year for lack of sufficient evidence after the colonel and his wife produced documents explaining where their assets had come from.

But the dismissal was "without prejudice to the reopening of the case should there be other evidence that will crop up," Adan said, adding that the AFP had continued investigating Rabusa.

Documents from probers

"In recent weeks, there have been reports coming in from investigative agencies and we feel it is necessary to make Lt. Col. Rabusa available. That is why this restriction to quarters," Adan explained.

Adan could not say if Rabusa's restriction to quarters was related to Garcia's case, adding only that investigative agencies had acquired documents "that Lt. Col. Rabusa has to explain."

Adan did not name the agencies or clarified the nature of the documents.

Adan said Rabusa had not been charged with any new cases of ill-gotten wealth.

"We have not reached that point," he said. "We have documents to show how much (wealth). But what we can say is that in the succeeding days, as the investigation progresses, we will find out what charges he will be facing. We cannot be specific about it at this time."

Rabusa's fate

Adan could not tell if Rabusa's restriction to quarters and the continuation of his investigation would lead to court-martial proceedings against the colonel.

"We will find out if there are violations of the articles of war ... The first step is always to gather evidence. That is important and that takes time. When you have gathered evidence, you can file the case (all the way to court martial). What's important is you have competent evidence."

According to his service record, Rabusa was assigned under Garcia to the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Comptrollership (J-6) on Nov. 4, 1999. He was relieved from J-6 in 2002 and assigned as commander of the 43rd Infantry Battalion in Samar the same year. Prior to his restriction to quarters, he was chief of operations of the Central Command based in Cebu City.

Documents showed that Rabusa had a P10 million savings deposit in the AFP Savings and Loans Association Inc.; houses in Sta. Ana, Manila, in Better Living, Parañaque, and at the AFP Officers' Village Association Inc. in Fort Bonifacio, and seven vehicles.

Feliciano Commission

Rabusa, who has a gross monthly income of P26,639, appeared last week before the hearings of the House committee on national defense investigating corruption in the military.

Ms Arroyo told the foreign correspondents that her administration was vigorously implementing the recommendations of the Feliciano Commission, which investigated the causes of last year's Oakwood mutiny.

The commission had recommended, among other things, limiting the AFP comptroller's term to not more than three years.

"To cast the graft dragnet farther and wider, the military Ombudsman's budget has been augmented so it can hire 25 new lawyers," she said.

She also said an independent Internal Affairs Office was created in the military to review its procurement and financial systems and to receive grievances and complaints directly from soldiers in the field.

Proposed judges

A ranking general nominated to sit at the court-martial of Garcia said the court would conduct its proceedings in a professional manner.

"As professional soldiers, we will do our best to execute the orders of the chief of staff," Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, commander of the Philippine Army's 2nd Infantry Division, said in a phone interview.

Eight senior officers, including Cabuay, have been nominated to the military court. The other officers were Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, Central Command chief based in Cebu; Maj. Gen. Jaime Viernes, Air Force inspector general; Maj. Gen. Allan Cabalquinto, Special Operations Command chief; Maj. Gen. Edwin Vargas, deputy chief of staff for Civil Military Operations (J-7); Rear Admiral Abraham Abesamis, deputy chief of staff for electronics, communications and information systems (J-11); Brig. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado, assistant to the deputy chief of staff for CMO (J-7), and Col. Claridad Aguilar, assistant, Judge Advocate General.

Members of the court will sit as a jury and decide as a group by majority vote. The rules stipulate that a general court-martial must have no less than five members.

Corrections

JOJI Garcia

BERNIE Fineza

IN THE OCT. 25 issue, a headline in a front-page window—"My kids were kept away from me, says ex-Hagibis"—was erroneously accompanied by the photo of Joji Garcia. The photo of Bernie Fineza should have been used.

The caption for the Hagibis photo on Page A33 of the Entertainment section also misidentified Garcia as Fineza.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 24 issue, a SundayBiz story—"How Manila FAME helped these three entrepreneurs"—and a photo caption on Page B8 misspelled the name of the owner of A&S Design. The correct spelling is Alan B. Lastimosa—not Lastimoso.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 23 issue, a front-page story—"Aide's son claims he owns cocks on Reyes lot"—misstated the selling price of a cock aged between 14 months and two years. The farm sells a cock in this age group for P6,000—not P6 million.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 22 issue, a front-page story—"Reyes owns cock farm in Parañaque"—misstated the net worth that Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes declared in his 2003 Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth. In his SALN, the former Armed Forces chief of staff and defense secretary declared a net worth of P8.3 million—not P18 million. Reyes also declared that his total assets amounted to P18,662,824.34 and his total liabilities ran to P10,323,052.91.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

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A Message to Our Consumers - Part 2
PREVENTING A CRISIS

Two months ago, in our ad to consumers, we said that we are in a CRISIS and unless we address our ballooning foreign debt, reduce budget deficit, cut subsidies, increase tax collection, and pass new revenue measures, we will be in a FISCAL CRISIS just like Argentina "sooner than later".

It pains the Consumer & Oil Price Watch (COPW) to support the pending petitions for increases in the cost of basic services in order to reflect their true costs.

We are sensitive to the plight of our unemployed and the low and middle income classes, who are having a difficult time coping with the increasing costs, but there is no choice but to reduce the growing budget deficit in order for our economy to get back on track.

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR CONSUMERS

1. We pledge to you that we will be proactive in ensuring transparency to prevent a repetition of the sins of the past.
2. The primary reason for our huge financial debt is that major projects approved by past administrations, by the Investment Coordinating Committee under NEDA, and the regulatory agencies, were not communicated or explained clearly to the public from the start.
3. The rationale for a sovereign government guarantee should only be acceptable when the projects have passed the litmus test of project viability with true costs being reflected, and no debt is absorbed by the Government from start to the completion of the project.
4. When sovereign risk is involved, Government must make sure that investors have enough collateral the Government can use to absorb the debt should investors decide to abandon the project.
5. Henceforth, on all new infrastructure projects and public utilities affecting the consumers, we will work closely with NEDA, the Economic Managers, the regulatory commissions, as well as, the House and Senate Committees on Trade and Industry, the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance.

OUR WORK SCHEDULE FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER

ISSUE: POWER

We are working proactively with the NPC, MERALCO, PSALM, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), and the Department of Energy (DOE) in order to be informed of the following:

1. Breakdown of the cost of each power plant (fixed and variable cost per kWh) that we continue to pay even if it is not used and when ALL the plants will be fully utilized.
2. Cause of the sins of the past which led to the losses incurred by the NPC now totalling P598.58 billion, particularly the government borrowings, as well as, the interest charges resulting from the postponement of the increases in tariff rates due to exchange rate depreciation and subsidy.

ISSUE: TRANSCO (National Transmission Corp.)

We are working closely with the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) to ensure that the privatization of TRANSCO is transparent and the safeguards that will guarantee maximum value to the Government are in place.

Once the NPC obligations absorbed by PSALM have been stabilized, we want a commitment from PSALM as to when the profits will be plowed back to the consumers in the form of lower power costs.

ISSUE: MWSS TAKEOVER OF MAYNILAD

We are concerned over the debt that would be absorbed by the National Government since the Manila West Zone concession is now de facto owned by the state-run Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

Should the Government decide to completely absorb the P8.5 bilion worth of concession fees unpaid by MAYNILAD and the $800 million MWSS debt assumed by MAYNILAD, the West Zone customers would be penalized in the form of higher water rates.

ISSUE: DOMESTIC SHIPPING RATES

Notwithstanding the deregulation of the domestic shipping industry, we support the unbundling of shipping/freight rates like what the NPC, MERALCO, and the other distribution utilities have done to ensure transparency to consumers.

We will request the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) the basis of the 5.98% rate increase made by shipping companies in March 2003 under the Automatic Fuel Rate Adjustment (AFRA) and the basis of the recent 14.5% rate adjustment which lumped together the AFRA and the General Rate Increase.

ISSUE: NORTH & SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAYS, TOLLWAYS, LRT & MRT

We have met with the Tollway Regulatory Board (TRB) and the investors of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) to pursue the new toll rates to be effected in December.

We will meet with CITRA Metro Manila Tollways Corp., the investor of the development of the skyway and the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) regarding toll rates.

We will also meet with the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), who establishes the passenger fares of the LRT and MRT systems.

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Metro quake scenario: 147,000 dead, injured

From page A1

AN UPTURNED vehicle rests on a damaged road following a series of powerful earthquakes at Ojiya, northern Japan over the weekend. AP

from Japanese occupation forces.

Used to disasters

"We are used to disasters," said Renato Solidum, head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, citing the 19 storms and typhoons that whip the Southeast Asian archipelago every year.

"However, responding to typhoons and earthquakes are two different things," Solidum added.

Although five quakes hit the Philippines every day, few if any are felt. Only three major, destructive tremors have been recorded in more than 30 years—and about 75 in the last 400 years, Solidum told Agence France Presse.

In August 1976, a tsunami from the Moro Gulf slammed into the southwest coast of Mindanao minutes after a quake that measured 7.9 on the Richter scale. The tsunami killed 3,700 people.

A 7.8-magnitude quake in July 1990 left more than 1,200 dead in Baguio City and nearby areas, while 78 people died in a 7.1 temblor on Mindoro island in November 1994.

However, not one earthquake has hit Manila, now one of Asia's largest metropolises with more than 10 million residents, Solidum said.

Fearing a repeat of the Baguio quake, joint teams of the US Geological Survey and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology set out in the mid-1990s to map out the country's active fault systems.

The Philippines next sought Japan's help to study Metro Manila's vulnerability.

The study team looked at "possible earthquake generators" from nearby active faults in the earth's crust, including the offshore Manila Trench and the Valley Fault system on the Marikina Valley.

The 1990s surveys concluded that the Valley Fault had "moved at least four times for the past 1,400 years," Solidum said. "If it had moved before, it can move in the near future."

What science cannot predict is exactly when the Valley Fault would move. But it can examine how buildings and structures would hold up.

Devastating

Based on the materials, designs, ages and geological foundations of Metro Manila's structures, the Japanese-funded study concluded that a major quake would have a devastating impact on low-rise residential buildings, Santiago said.

Solidum also warned about the threat of liquefaction, in which geysers of underground water triggered by huge quakes dissolve the ground, swallowing up everything above it.

Parts of the metropolis, including the coastal areas along Manila Bay and Pasig River delta, are more vulnerable to liquefaction than elsewhere because they sit on soft sediment instead of more stable volcanic rock, he added.

Santiago said the military had a battalion-size unit of about 500 specially trained rescuers. The MMDA has a thousand, while the cities of Marikina and Makati also have specialized units.

However, the capabilities of each district varies, and "our fire-suppression capacity cannot cope" with 500 simultaneous fires expected, he said.

"They are now trying to strengthen their fire safety inspections and w ould identify their educational campaign in fire prevention," Santiago said.

AFP

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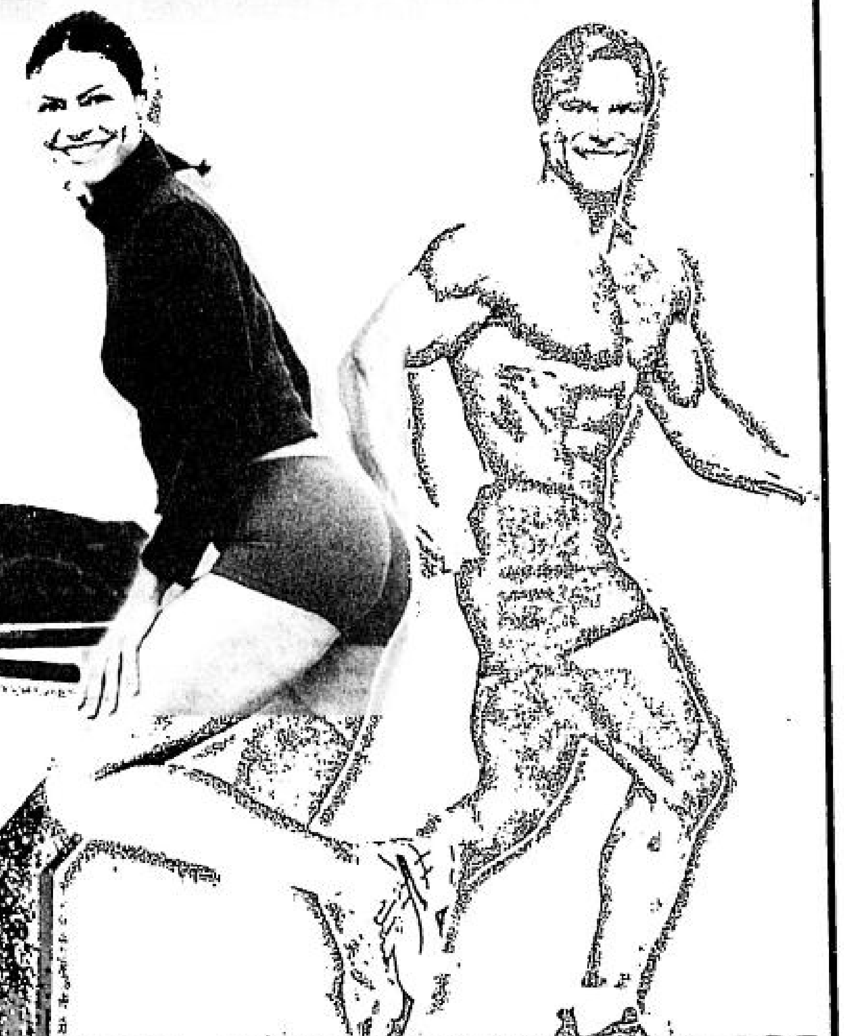

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Miriam exposes AFP 'Gang of 12'

From page A1

ments, and consequently, to divide the cash among the generals concerned, the supplier, the supplier's agent who was usually an attractive female, and—only if absolutely necessary—to the official project itself, according to Santiago.

"In other words, 'conversion' is a euphemism for the crime of malversation of public funds, most often through ghost deliveries, under-deliveries or overpricing. If the amount involved is over P50 million, then 'conversion' is a euphemism for the crime of plunder," she said.

As an example, Santiago said that supposing the J-1 diverted a certain sum of money to a geographical command (Northern Luzon Command, Southern Luzon Command, Central Command Cebu, Southern Command Zamboanga), the J-6 would secure from the budget department an official document called Saro (Special Allotment and Release Order), which notifies general headquarters that a cash allocation had been made and was ready for release.

After J-1 receives the Saro, "J-1 orders: 'Clear this,'" she said. Consequently, certain purchase orders would be issued, and in five days, without any delivery, the money is "cleared," she said.

If the amount was P10 million, it would be usually divided as follows:

- P1.5 million or 15 percent would go to the supplier, and he shares this with the comptroller, auditor, logistics officer and members of the acceptance committee;
- P1.5 million, another 15 percent, would go to the local commander such as Southcom.
- P7 million, 70 percent, would go to the chief of staff, who may or may not share it with the rest of the Gang of 12.

Wounded soldiers, tires

At the hearing of the committees on national defense and on banks in the House of Representatives, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes said it was possible that conversion was being practiced in the military.

But Reyes said he never resorted to conversion during his stint as AFP chief of staff.

He said conversion may be resorted to when wounded soldiers are brought for treatment to hospitals, which demand deposits and payments for medicine and doctors' fees.

Immediate cash, he said, was also necessary in case the tires of military vehicles engaged in combat burst.

"You have to have cash to buy tires, otherwise your military jeeps won't run. Hospitals demand deposits and if you don't have cash, your soldier dies. You send your soldiers to fight and die for the country and you don't give them support," he said. "There's no appropriations for that. You also have to give money for the bereaved families."

Asked how the problem of conversion could be solved, Reyes said the government must embark on a massive, nationwide values formation.

Richest source

Santiago said J-3 (operations) was the "richest source of graft money," while J-4 (logistics) was the most "conspicuous venue for graft," because its office was filled daily with "Filipino-Chinese, sexy and trashy women, and the special friends of wives of corrupt generals."

"Show me a former J-3 commander, and I'll show you a very rich man. Most military operations proved to be failures, because most operational money went to conversion," she said.

Alluding to suspended Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, former AFP comptroller, Santiago claimed that all staff generals were beholden to the comptroller because he controlled the release of funds.

"The comptroller has power to realign military funds, provided the chief of staff issues the necessary order. Somehow I suffer the suspicion that the extremely close ties between the comptroller and the chief of staff exceed the bounds of religious fellowship. From a legal overview, it appears that if the comptroller is guilty of malversation, the chief of staff is also automatically guilty of the same crime, for one cannot strategize without the other," she said.

"He is not Mr. Scissorhands; he is Mr. Gluehands. Money sticks to his hands like glue," she added, referring to the comptroller.

Santiago said J-7 (civil military operations) had the easiest system for clearing and converting military funds.

Through the Civil Relations Service, J-7 allegedly forges government forms, getting three percent for every signature, plus an added two percent from the dealer, she said.

Any gang of 12 at any one time emerged scot-free because it made sure that its successors were personal proteges, who could be depended upon to protect the "system," according to Santiago.

Unliquidated cash advances

She said only institutionalized corruption could explain why, according to the Commission on Audit, as of Dec. 31, 2003, the military had incurred total unliquidated cash advances of P1.448 billion.

She proposed that the finance committee ensure that the 2005 military budget contain anti-corruption measures such as the prompt liquidation of funds and actual physical count of deliveries and of persons receiving salaries.

Santiago asked the chamber to authorize the committees on national defense and security and on finance to conduct an inquiry into the feasibility of establishing next year an independent commission to provide solutions to "institutionalized military corruption."

She said she didn't mind if her brother, Benjamin Defensor, was summoned to the inquiry.

She attested to the integrity of her brother amid talk that outgoing chiefs of staff received hefty financial "send-off package" ranging from P100 million to P300 million.

Santiago said her brother, who retired in 2001 after a two-month stint as AFP chief of staff, was not the type of man to be involved in corruption. "I have personal knowledge of the strength of his moral character," she said.

She said the 1987 Constitution should be amended, particularly Article 2 Section 3, which provides that "The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State."

"The corruption level in the military and police is so stratospheric at this time that the Constitution should be amended to state: 'The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the predator of the people and the State, and is hence abolished in favor of a citizen's army.'"

Fall of Rome

Santiago reminded the chamber that the country could suffer the same fate as the Roman empire should the "mob" be allowed to continue with its operations.

She said that in his 1988 book, "Corruption and the Decline of Rome," Ramsay MacMullen, professor of classics and history at Yale University, observed that the decline of Rome "became an accomplished fact when the army became corrupt."

Santiago noted that most, if not all, of the "champions" of corruption in the military were graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Volt Contreras and Christine O. Avendaño*

Reyes tells probers: You're destroying AFP

From page A1

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes told the House committees on national defense and banks yesterday that while he believed their proceedings were necessary in aid of legislation, imputations of alleged irregularities in the AFP as a whole were eroding the profession he used to belong to.

The House inquiry into corruption in the military was triggered by allegations that former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia had amassed wealth—estimated by one lawmaker at P200 million—beyond his legitimate income.

In his opening statement to the committees, Reyes immediately went into the offensive, expressing concern about the possible repercussions of the congressional inquiry.

"I feel that, as the proceedings have been going on, there are perceptions that imputations of some activities [are] eroding an honorable profession, the profession of arms; that the institution of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the very institution that has been protecting the state and its people, is slowly being destroyed," Reyes said.

Wrecking reputations

Rep. Roilo Golez (Kampi, Parañaque), defense committee chair, told Reyes his presence was necessary in view of the former AFP chief's expertise. Reyes could also help Congress draft remedial legislation to address the problems in the AFP, Golez added.

"There's a limit to that, your honor," Reyes snapped back.

"The moment names are implicated and later on [they] turn out to be innocent, then character assassination had already been made. Now, who will remedy that situation after the hearing?" Reyes said.

"You also parade people in the DILG, Secretary Reyes," Golez said, referring to the police practice of parading before the media people arrested on suspicion of criminal activities.

"But they are suspects, your honor," Reyes shot back.

Reyes flares up

At one point, Rep. Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte) pressed Reyes about his reported huge assets and property.

Reyes said that everything was reflected in the statements of assets and liabilities that he filed every year.

He said most of his property came from his inheritance and that he had some P4 million in a joint bank account with his 94-year-old mother.

The money, he said, belonged to his mother and they decided to conjoin the account to make it easier all around.

Reyes said he would be happy to accommodate Marcos' request to furnish the committees with his SAL of the last five years.

When Marcos asked that he also furnish them with the records of his mother's financial statement, Reyes flared up.

"Your honor, you leave my mother alone. You leave my family alone," he said.

Not a suspect

Golez assured Reyes that his request not to drag his mother into the inquiry would be duly noted by committee members.

Asked by Marcos what happened to the graft cases against him in the past, Reyes said he had already explained his wealth and had been cleared by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Golez told Reyes that he was invited as a resource person, not as a suspect.

But Reyes resented the wording of the committee invitation that said his presence at the hearing was necessary, having been the AFP chief of staff who supposedly recommended Garcia to be the deputy chief of staff for comptrollership.

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Miriam exposes AFP 'Gang of 12'

From page A1

ments, and consequently, to divide the cash among the generals concerned, the supplier, the supplier's agent who was usually an attractive female, and—only if absolutely necessary—to the official project itself, according to Santiago.

"In other words, 'conversion' is a euphemism for the crime of malversation of public funds, most often through ghost deliveries, under-deliveries or overpricing. If the amount involved is over P50 million, then 'conversion' is a euphemism for the crime of plunder," she said.

As an example, Santiago said that supposing the J-1 diverted a certain sum of money to a geographical command (Northern Luzon Command, Southern Luzon Command, Central Command Cebu, Southern Command Zamboanga), the J-6 would secure from the budget department an official document called Saro (Special Allotment and Release Order), which notifies general headquarters that a cash allocation had been made and was ready for release.

After J-1 receives the Saro, 'J-1 orders: 'Clear this,'" she said. Consequently, certain purchase orders would be issued, and in five days, without any delivery, the money is "cleared," she said.

If the amount was P10 million, it would be usually divided as follows:

- P1.5 million or 15 percent would go to the supplier, and he shares this with the comptroller, auditor, logistics officer and members of the acceptance committee;
- P1.5 million, another 15 percent, would go to the local commander such as Southcom.
- P7 million, 70 percent, would go to the chief of staff, who may or may not share it with the rest of the Gang of 12.

Wounded soldiers, tires

At the hearing of the committees on national defense and on banks in the House of Representatives, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes said it was possible that conversion was being practiced in the military.

But Reyes said he never resorted to conversion during his stint as AFP chief of staff.

He said conversion may be resorted to when wounded soldiers are brought for treatment to hospitals, which demand deposits and payments for medicine and doctors' fees.

Immediate cash, he said, was also necessary in case the tires of military vehicles engaged in combat burst.

"You have to have cash to buy tires, otherwise your military jeeps won't run. Hospitals demand deposits and if you don't have cash, your soldier dies. You send your soldiers to fight and die for the country and you don't give them support," he said. "There's no appropriations for that. You also have to give money for the bereaved families."

Asked how the problem of conversion could be solved, Reyes said the government must embark on a massive, nationwide values formation.

Richest source

Santiago said J-3 (operations) was the "richest source of graft money," while J-4 (logistics) was the most "conspicuous venue for graft," because its office was filled daily with "Filipino-Chinese, sexy and trashy women, and the special friends of wives of corrupt generals."

"Show me a former J-3 commander, and I'll show you a very rich man. Most military operations proved to be failures, because most operational money went to conversion," she said.

Alluding to suspended Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, former AFP comptroller, Santiago claimed that all staff generals were beholden to the comptroller because he controlled the release of funds.

"The comptroller has power to realign military funds, provided the chief of staff issues the necessary order. Somehow I suffer the suspicion that the extremely close ties between the comptroller and the chief of staff exceed the bounds of religious fellowship. From a legal overview, it appears that if the comptroller is guilty of malversation, the chief of staff is also automatically guilty of the same crime, for one cannot strategize without the other," she said.

"He is not Mr. Scissorhands; he is Mr. Gluehands. Money sticks to his hands like glue," she added, referring to the comptroller.

Santiago said J-7 (civil military operations) had the easiest system for clearing and converting military funds.

Through the Civil Relations Service, J-7 allegedly forges government forms, getting three percent for every signature, plus an added two percent from the dealer, she said.

Any gang of 12 at any one time emerged scot-free because it made sure that its successors were personal proteges, who could be depended upon to protect the "system," according to Santiago.

Unliquidated cash advances

She said only institutionalized corruption could explain why, according to the Commission on Audit, as of Dec. 31, 2003, the military had incurred total unliquidated cash advances of P1.448 billion.

She proposed that the finance committee ensure that the 2005 military budget contain anti-corruption measures such as the prompt liquidation of funds and actual physical count of deliveries and of persons receiving salaries.

Santiago asked the chamber to authorize the committees on national defense and security and on finance to conduct an inquiry into the feasibility of establishing next year an independent commission to provide solutions to "institutionalized military corruption."

She said she didn't mind if her brother, Benjamin Defensor, was summoned to the inquiry.

She attested to the integrity of her brother amid talk that outgoing chiefs of staff received hefty financial "send-off package" ranging from P100 million to P300 million.

Santiago said her brother, who retired in 2001 after a two-month stint as AFP chief of staff, was not the type of man to be involved in corruption. "I have personal knowledge of the strength of his moral character," she said.

She said the 1987 Constitution should be amended, particularly Article 2 Section 3, which provides that "The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State."

"The corruption level in the military and police is so stratospheric at this time that the Constitution should be amended to state: 'The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the predator of the people and the State, and is hence abolished in favor of a citizen's army.'"

Fall of Rome

Santiago reminded the chamber that the country could suffer the same fate as the Roman empire should the "mob" be allowed to continue with its operations.

She said that in his 1988 book, "Corruption and the Decline of Rome," Ramsay MacMullen, professor of classics and history at Yale University, observed that the decline of Rome "became an accomplished fact when the army became corrupt."

Santiago noted that most, if not all, of the "champions" of corruption in the military were graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Volt Contreras and Christine O. Avendaño*

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Reyes tells probers: You're destroying AFP

From page A1

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes told the House committees on national defense and banks yesterday that while he believed their proceedings were necessary in aid of legislation, imputations of alleged irregularities in the AFP as a whole were eroding the profession he used to belong to.

The House inquiry into corruption in the military was triggered by allegations that former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia had amassed wealth—estimated by one lawmaker at P200 million—beyond his legitimate income.

In his opening statement to the committees, Reyes immediately went into the offensive, expressing concern about the possible repercussions of the congressional inquiry.

"I feel that, as the proceedings have been going on, there are perceptions that imputations of some activities [are] eroding an honorable profession, the profession of arms; that the institution of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the very institution that has been protecting the state and its people, is slowly being destroyed," Reyes said.

Wrecking reputations

Rep. Roilo Golez (Kampi, Parañaque), defense committee chair, told Reyes his presence was necessary in view of the former AFP chief's expertise. Reyes could also help Congress draft remedial legislation to address the problems in the AFP, Golez added.

"There's a limit to that, your honor," Reyes snapped back.

"The moment names are implicated and later on [they] turn out to be innocent, then character assassination had already been made. Now, who will remedy that situation after the hearing?" Reyes said.

"You also parade people in the DILG, Secretary Reyes," Golez said, referring to the police practice of parading before the media people arrested on suspicion of criminal activities.

"But they are suspects, your honor," Reyes shot back.

Reyes flares up

At one point, Rep. Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte) pressed Reyes about his reported huge assets and property.

Reyes said that everything was reflected in the statements of assets and liabilities that he filed every year.

He said most of his property came from his inheritance and that he had some P4 million in a joint bank account with his 94-year-old mother.

The money, he said, belonged to his mother and they decided to conjoin the account to make it easier all around.

Reyes said he would be happy to accommodate Marcos' request to furnish the committees with his SAL of the last five years.

When Marcos asked that he also furnish them with the records of his mother's financial statement, Reyes flared up.

"Your honor, you leave my mother alone. You leave my family alone," he said.

Not a suspect

Golez assured Reyes that his request not to drag his mother into the inquiry would be duly noted by committee members.

Asked by Marcos what happened to the graft cases against him in the past, Reyes said he had already explained his wealth and had been cleared by the Office of the Ombudsman.

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But Reyes resented the wording of the committee invitation that said his presence at the hearing was necessary, having been the AFP chief of staff who supposedly recommended Garcia to be the deputy chief of staff for comptrollership.

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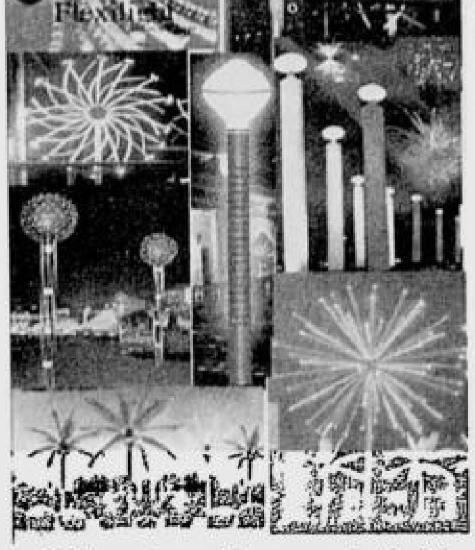

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GMA vows to curb population rate

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday pledged to curb the runaway population growth rate, saying its rapid 2.3 percent pace was a "pressing issue."

"We intend to bring down the rate of population growth to 1.9 percent," she told reporters.

The President said the annual 2.3 percent birth rate was "a pressing issue" but it was not the country's main challenge.

"The most pressing issue that we have now is our inability to finance our own development by our own resources," she said.

Ms Arroyo said the government was preaching "responsible parenthood" to a mainly Roman Catholic nation in which the dominant church opposes the use of artificial contraceptives.

Parents and families had been advised to space their children two to three years apart and to use birth control methods that were not contrary to their religious beliefs, such as the rhythm method.

Ms Arroyo said the family planning program was not the main responsibility of the national government, but rather the local government units which had been given the authority to decide "the methods that they will push in their communities."

Major Philippine business leaders last week wrote the President, calling on her to lead the nation in fighting for population control.

Ms Arroyo, a devout Catholic, had previously refused to endorse artificial contraceptives.
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Zarqawi claims killing of 49 unarmed Iraqi Army recruits

BAGHDAD—America's top enemy in Iraq claimed the killing of nearly 50 unarmed army recruits in a cold-blooded assault on fledgling security forces slated to take part in a crackdown on rebels before elections due in January.

Insurgents blew up a roadside bomb near a US patrol in central Baghdad on Monday, wounding three Iraqi civilians, the Interior Ministry said. The US military had no immediate word on the blast that went off not far from the Australian Embassy.

Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's newly renamed group, the Al Qaeda Organization for Holy War in Iraq, said it had killed 48 "apostates" in Saturday's attack on army recruits northeast of Baghdad. Iraqi authorities said 49 men were killed.

"The mujahideen killed them all, stole two vehicles and the salaries they had just received from their masters," Zarqawi's group said in a statement on a website used by militants.

The attack was another blow to the US-backed interim government's efforts to build up local security forces to help US-led troops tackle Iraq's relentless insurgency before elections scheduled for January.

Guerrillas also killed a US diplomat in a mortar attack on a US base near Baghdad airport on Sunday in the first known killing of an American diplomat in Iraq since last year's war.

Iraqi Defense Minister Hazim al-Shaalan said those who killed the army recruits would face the maximum punishment.

"Of course, once we identify and arrest the perpetrators, we will take tough measures against them. God willing, when we arrest them, they will receive capital punishment," he said.

Zarqawi's group has claimed responsibility for some of Iraq's bloodiest suicide attacks and several hostage beheadings.

Washington has offered $25 million for his killing or capture.

Authorities said rebels disguised as police had halted the minibuses carrying the recruits at a fake checkpoint. They forced them to lie face down on the road before shooting them in the head. A dozen recruits tried to flee but were also shot.

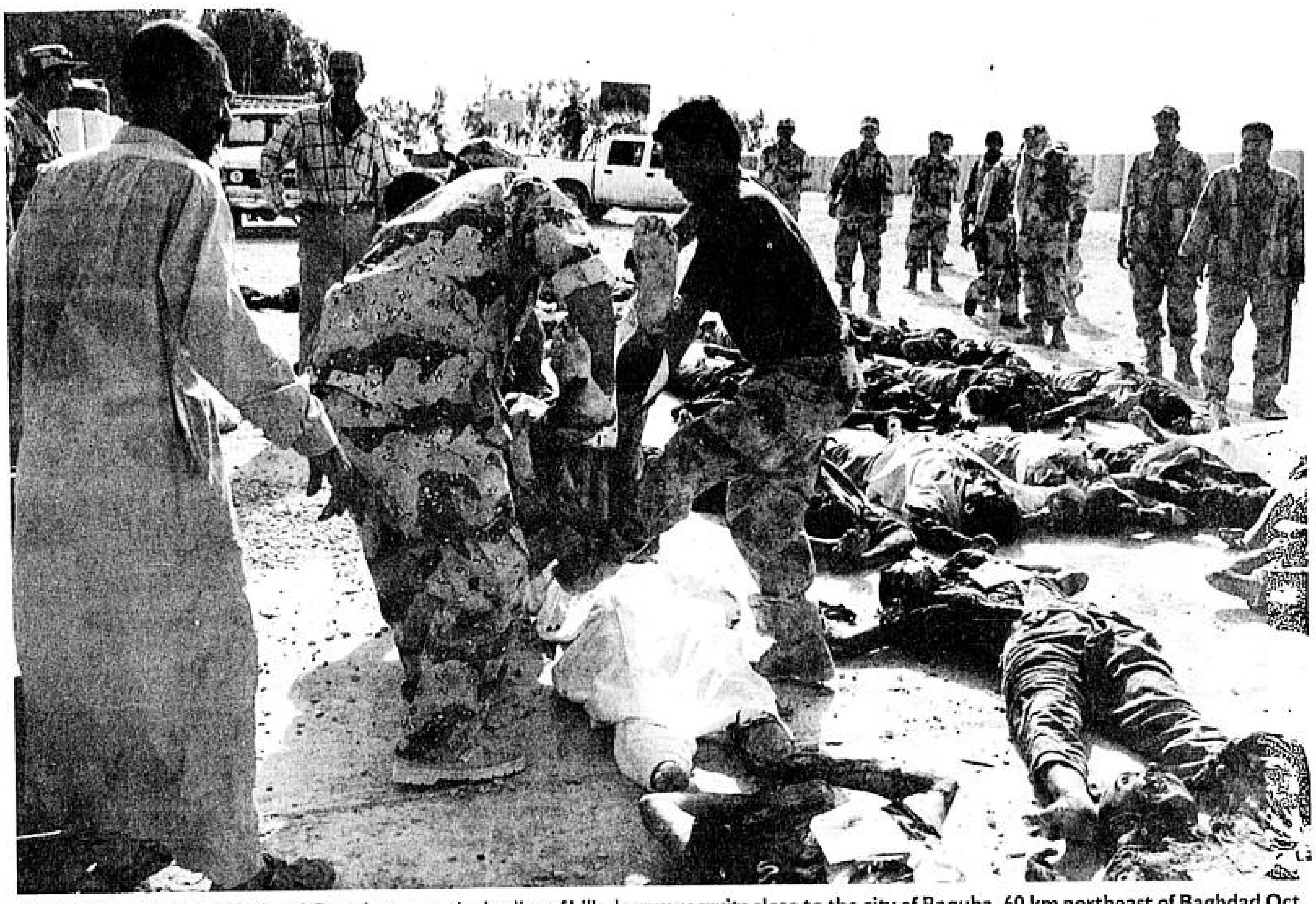
"It appears they were ambushed by a large, well-organized force with good intelligence," a security source said.

Rebels and suicide bombers have often targeted Iraqis seen as cooperating with the Americans or the interim government.

Another militant group, the Army of Ansar al-Sunna, said it had assassinated the police chief in the northern city of Arbil and threatened to kill Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani.

The group said in an Internet statement that it had killed Col. Tah Ahmed on Saturday as a message to Barzani that "the hands of the mujahideen would soon reach him."

An Interior Ministry spokesperson described the victim of the attack as the "chief of guards" in Arbil, not the police chief. *Reuters*



MEMBERS of the Iraqi National Guard remove the bodies of killed army recruits close to the city of Baquba, 60 km northeast of Baghdad Oct. 24. The victims had been returning home to the southern Shiite-dominated cities of Amara and Kut after a 20-day training course at a desert camp near the Iranian border when they were believed killed. AFP

Karzai gets majority in Afghan poll count

KABUL—The focus of the Afghan presidential election turned Monday to an imminent verdict on candidates' complaints, a day after preliminary results showed Hamid Karzai had won the vote in a landslide.

With 94.3 percent of the ballots counted, aides to the urbane 46-year-old Pashtun tribal chief and interim Afghan leader said he had secured more than half the total number of votes and would thus avoid a second-round runoff.

As soon as Karzai's tally passed four million ballots, out of an estimated eight million cast, on Sunday afternoon, his campaign spokesperson Hamid Elmi told AFP: "We have a simple majority. This is exactly what we want." Karzai's chief rival, Yunus Qanooni, was also swift to acknowledge Karzai's majority as he languished nearly 40 percentage points behind in second place on 16.2 percent. Karzai was on 55.3 percent.

"In order to respect the nation's will, based on the numbers announced up to now, we consider Karzai the winner," Qanooni's spokesperson, Sayed Hamid Noori, told AFP.

The UN-Afghan electoral commission has not yet declared Karzai the winner, saying an announcement must wait for all votes to be counted and for an investigation to be completed into allegations of fraud and irregularities.

The United Nations established a panel of three international election experts that is investigating more than 100 complaints from all 18 candidates.

As part of its investigations, the panel ordered an unspecified number of ballot boxes to be isolated while inquiries were conducted. *AFP*

Vatican: Preventive war needs proof of coming attack

VATICAN CITY—A major Vatican document issued a week ahead of the US elections forcefully restated on Monday the Catholic Church's position that preventive wars are permissible only with "clear proof" of an imminent attack.

The position on war and peace, on legitimate defense and aggression was found in the new Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, a 330-page tome published by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

While the book is mainly a compilation of known Church teachings on a host of social issues, its chapter called "The Promotion of Peace," is one of the most topical because of the war in Iraq and the Nov. 2 US presidential elections.

It made no specific reference to Iraq, but defended the Charter of the United Nations, which prohibits a recourse to conflict to resolve disputes except in cases of legitimate defense and when backed by the UN Security Council.

"Therefore, engaging in a preventive war without clear proof that an attack is imminent cannot fail to raise serious moral and juridical questions," it said.

The Vatican strongly opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq and the Pope sent senior cardinals to US President George Bush and former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to try to avert it.

The Vatican envoy the Pope dispatched to Washington before the invasion, Cardinal Pio Laghi, emerged from his meeting with Bush and said any war without UN backing would be "illegal."

The new compendium appeared to back up that position.

"International legitimacy for the use of armed force ... can only be given by the decision of a competent body that identifies specific situations as threats to peace...," it said.

It also spoke of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), which the Bush administration said was a main reason for the invasion.

Biological, chemical or nuclear weapons represent a particularly serious threat and those who possess them have an enormous responsibility before God and all of humanity, it said.

The doctrine of preemptive attacks against potential enemies became a key element of Bush's national security policy after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on US cities. But critics say failure to find WMD in Iraq undermined the case for war. *Reuters*

6 Pitcairn Island men found guilty of rape, assaults

SYDNEY—Six of the seven Pitcairn Island men charged with raping and indecently assaulting girls as young as 12 were found guilty by a British court on the remote South Pacific island, a British official said on Monday.

The men, descendants of 18th century Bounty mutineers, had argued that underage sex was a tradition dating back to 1790 when mutineers arrived on the island with their Tahitian women.

But their victims, now adults who testified via video from New Zealand, said they were treated as "sex things" as girls and raped at will under banyan trees or in garden sheds on Pitcairn.

"The convictions today send a clear message that the abuse of children is not acceptable in any culture anywhere, even on Pitcairn Island," British police officer Ron Vinson said in a TV New Zealand report from the remote island.

The men will be sentenced later this week but will not be sent to jail until 2005 at the earliest because of legal wrangling over whether Britain has jurisdiction over the island.

"Six of the seven have been found guilty," said British High Commission spokesperson Bryan Nicolson in Wellington, New Zealand.

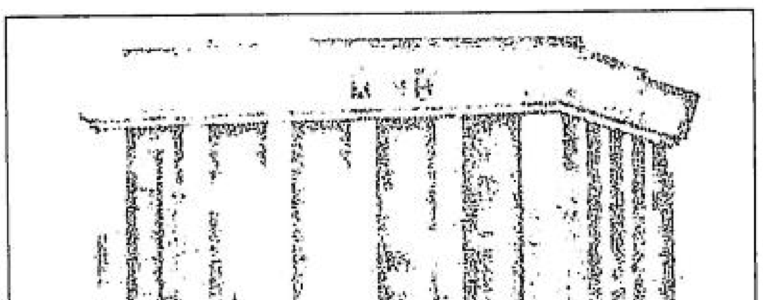
"Steve Christian, the mayor, has been found guilty of five rapes and a number of sexual assaults," Nicolson told Reuters.

Christian, 53, is a descendant of Fletcher Christian, who led the Bounty mutiny in 1789. Christian was the "leader of the pack" on the island and believed he had a right to have sex with young girls, the prosecution told the court during the trial.

His 30-year-old son Randy Christian was found guilty of four rapes and five indecent assaults, said TV New Zealand.

Len Brown, 78, was found guilty of two rapes and his son Dave Brown was convicted of nine indecent assaults, it said.

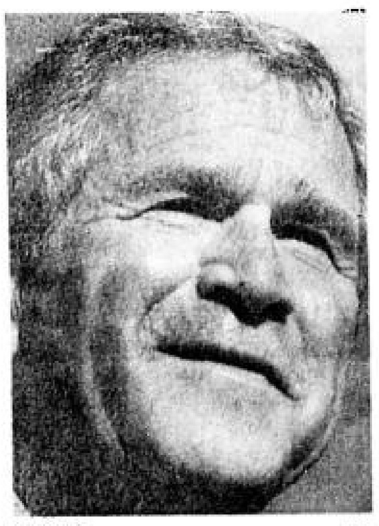
Dennis Christian, Steve Christian's cousin, was found guilty of one indecent assault charge and two sexual assaults and Terry Young was convicted of one rape and six indecent assaults. *Reuters*



HOMAGE TO HO

Vietnam's National Assembly delegates walk through Ba Dinh Square after paying their respects at the mausoleum of former Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh prior to the opening session of the National Assembly meeting in Hanoi, Oct. 25. AP

It's good to be president: Bush exploiting 'equity of incumbent'



BUSH AFP

By **CONNIE CASS**

WASHINGTON—No president chasing reelection runs alone.

His Cabinet secretaries fan out across swing states, bearing money for local schools or hurricane relief. White House staffers cater to key constituencies. A platoon of federal employees trumpets accomplishments, large and small.

This crowd comes courtesy of the taxpayer, a perk of the office—just like free trips on Air Force One—so long as there is a veneer of official business.

If President George W. Bush's reelection bid differs from recent predecessors, it's a matter of degree. Some say Bush has elevated the routine milking of government resources to an art form.

"He's just better at it," said Paul Light, professor of public service at New York University. "Bush has a mastery of this perquisite that no previous president had, and he uses it to extreme."

Not surprisingly, Democrats grouse about the thousands of kilometers Bush Cabinet members have logged visiting political battlegrounds. While they travel, vice presidential candidate John Edwards asks, "Who's minding the store?"

Vice President Dick Cheney had similar complaints in 2000, when the shoe was on the other foot. As Bush's running mate, Cheney expressed outrage that then-Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers had "jumped right in with both feet in the partisan debate" with comments supportive of Democratic nominee Al Gore.

Cheney noted that Treasury secretaries—like the leaders of the State, Defense and Justice departments—traditionally stay mostly above the election fray.

That was then.

Nowadays, Cheney isn't complaining about Treasury Secretary John Snow's frequent flights, almost exclusively to Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida and other states key to this year's presidential race.

Last week, Snow visited Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and Tampa and Orlando, Florida, "to discuss the president's efforts to strengthen the economy and create jobs," according to his office. Snow says he's doing his job, not campaigning.

There are risks in sending presidential surrogates onto the field: Sometimes they fumble. In Ohio, Snow declared it a "myth" that the nation has lost jobs under Bush, and John Kerry jumped on the comment as evidence the administration was out of touch.

The Kerry camp is also criticizing Condoleezza Rice, Bush's national security adviser, for a final-days spate of speeches in battleground states. Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was national security adviser to President Carter, called Rice's speeches "excessive politicization of an office which is unusually sensitive."

The White House said Rice was performing her duty of explaining the administration's war policies.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge says his department doesn't "do politics." Yet over the past seven months, nearly three-fifths of his public events beyond the Washington area were in the 17 states considered the most hotly contested. *AP*

Chinese seen reaching 1.5 billion in 30 years

SHANGHAI, China—China's population, now the world's largest at 1.3 billion, will peak at just under 1.5 billion in about 30 years, the country's head of population planning was quoted on Monday as saying.

"The nation's population will still increase by about 10 million annually and reach a peak of 1.46 billion in the mid-2030s," the state-run newspaper Shanghai Daily newspaper quoted Zhang Weiqing as saying.

The expanding working-age population will put massive pressure on the economy to create jobs, while the aging population strains government resources such as health care, Zhang was quoted as saying.

Both the working and aged populations are expected to peak in about 20 years, he said, adding that "the peaks are the toughest challenges for China's sustainable development."

China imposed a policy of allowing one child per family about 30 years ago, following a post-World War II baby boom. Chinese experts say it has reduced overall population growth by about 300 million births over the past decade.

People age 60 and over now make up 11 percent of the total population, and officials say the proportion is set to surge.

The government recently began allowing more families to have second children in hopes of easing the future burden of fewer worker supporting a growing number of retirees.

The Shanghai Daily said Zhang spoke at an international symposium on population issues over the weekend in Shanghai. Staff at the Population Commission's press office said a copy of the text wasn't immediately available.

The newspaper said Shanghai will likely add up to 4 million to its current population of 20 million by around 2020. Though that will strain resources, the city could handle a population of up to 30 million, it cited researchers at Shanghai's Fudan University as saying.

Experts attending the population conference expressed concern over China's rising disparity between births of boys and girls.

Birth limits coupled with a traditional preference for male heirs has led families to use modern technology such as sonogram machines to determine babies' genders before they are born. Unwanted girls are often aborted.

Nationwide, 117 boys are born for every 100 girls. The ratio in some rural areas is as high as 130 boys to 100 girls.

Worldwide, fewer than 110 boys are born to every 100 girls.

If current trends continue, officials say China could have as many as 40 million men who can't find spouses by 2020.

India currently has the world's second largest population with just over 1 billion people, but is expected to overtake China by 2050, when India will have over 1.6 billion people.

The United States is expected to have about 420 million people by that year, from about 300 million now. *AP*

Decongesting Seoul: President seeks options

SEOUL—South Korea still needs to find a way to ease congestion in Seoul and develop the regions but the government will not challenge a Constitutional Court ruling on moving the capital, President Roh Moo-hyun said on Monday.

The court ruled on Thursday a 2003 parliamentary law on relocating the capital to the south of Seoul was unlawful, and a constitutional amendment and referendum would be needed before such a plan could go ahead.

In a speech read to parliament by Prime Minister Lee Hae-chan, Roh said no one would challenge the court's opinion but diluting the power concentrated in the Seoul region remained a key national problem that had to be solved.

"The government wants to be clear that regional power sharing, balanced development and easing the concentration in the capital region is a historic challenge for the future of the country," he said.

"No one, not even the Constitutional Court will deny this challenge," he added.

Roh had made relocating the administrative capital away from crowded Seoul to two rural counties in the central region of Asia's third-largest economy a key pledge in his 2002 election campaign.

He had argued the move would allow balanced development in the country where more than 10 million of its 48 million people live in the capital.

In Roh's first reaction to Thursday's ruling, he appeared to skirt a full-fledged acceptance of the court ruling, saying instead: "No one will deny the legal effectiveness of the conclusion."

"There is an air of not accepting the Constitutional Court's decision," GNP spokesperson Yim Tae-hee said in a statement.

Roh sought to reduce discontent in the region where the new capital would have been built by saying the government would soon announce a plan to promote development in the area.

The two rural counties in Chungchong province picked earlier this year to be the new seat of government had seen rising real estate prices driven by expectations of huge development tied to the government plan to build a city of 500,000 people.

Many of the region's residents have been protesting the court's ruling, saying their livelihood is now in danger.

Opponents said Roh's plan was ill thought out and lacked a consensus. They said moving the capital south would send the wrong signal to North Korea because it could be taken to mean the South did not expect reunification soon. *Reuters*

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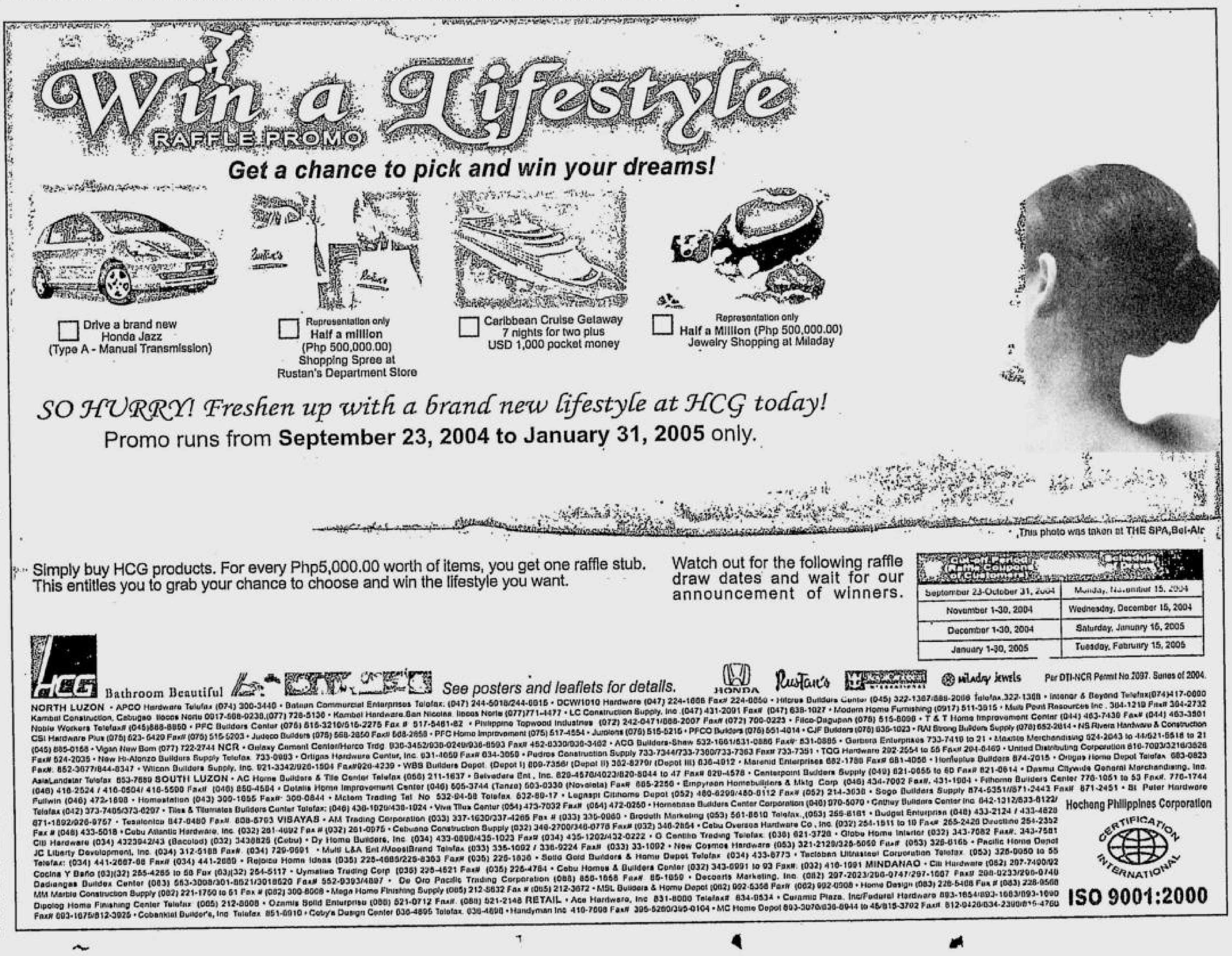
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Deadly temblor stokes Tokyo fears of 'Big One'

By Elaine Lies

TOKYO—The deadliest earthquake to hit Japan in a decade is a grim reminder to the 12 million residents of Tokyo that a killer quake could hit the capital at any time.

And experts said on Monday that even though readiness for the "Big One" had improved in recent years, much needed to be done.

Buildings shook and swayed in Tokyo on Saturday and following days when a 6.8-magnitude quake and hundreds of aftershocks hit the Niigata area, 250 km to the north.

At least 25 people in Niigata region were killed and 2,200 injured in the powerful series of tremors.

Niigata, however, is largely rural. A similar magnitude quake in Tokyo, one of the world's leading financial centers, would kill thousands and send shockwaves through world markets.

Saturday's quake was the deadliest in Japan since 1995 when a 7.2-magnitude tremor killed more than 6,400 in the city of Kobe.

As bad as that was, Tokyo's Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 killed 20 times as many people—more than 140,000.

"If a quake like the one in Niigata hit Tokyo, the damage would be terrible," said Tsuneo Katayama, president of the non-profit National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention in Tokyo.

"The death toll would be like that of Kobe," he said.

Experts have long said that another big quake is overdue.

In August, a government earthquake panel said there was a 70-percent chance that a quake of around magnitude 7.0 would hit Tokyo in the next 30 years, although it said the risk of a Great Kanto-type quake was 0.8 percent or lower.

The Tokyo city government has said an earthquake of magnitude 7.2 could kill more than 7,000 people and injure close to 160,000 while destroying or heavily damaging more than 140,000 buildings.

The Niigata quake showed that government preparations have improved, experts said, though much still remained to be done.

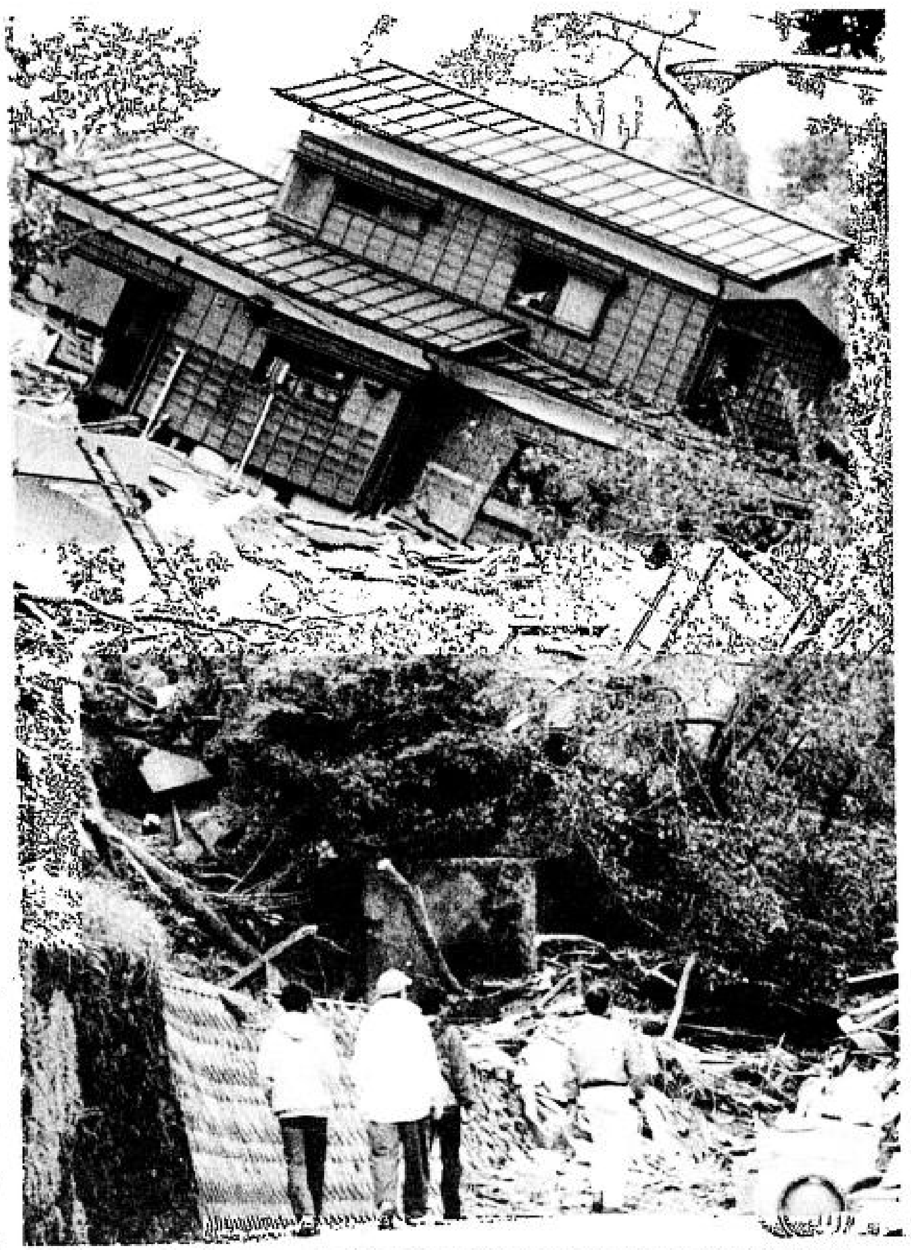
"Both local officials and the military were able to be on the scene much earlier, and this really helped," said Takehiko Yamamura, head of the private Disaster Prevention System Institute. "It wasn't perfect, but definitely much better."

Collapsing houses killed several people in Niigata, and experts said much of the damage in Tokyo would also center on traditional wooden houses and the likely ensuing gas-fed fires.

"The worst scenario is if a quake hit after midnight, while people are asleep in their homes," Katayama said. "The buildings would collapse and then fires would sweep through."

Despite the potential for disaster, there has been no rush to take preventive measures.

A 1997 report by the city government showed that Tokyo had over 1.6 million houses built before 1981. *Reuters*



LOCAL residents look up at a tilted house on the slope at Nigorisawa town, a village in Nagaoka hit by a landslide after a powerful earthquake. REUTERS

Iran: Nuke conversion plant nearly finished

TEHRAN—A key Iranian nuclear facility which the UN's nuclear watchdog has urged Tehran to shut down is nearing completion, a senior Iranian nuclear official said on Sunday.

The Uranium Conversion Facility in the central city of Isfahan is part of nuclear fuel cycle activities which the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has given Tehran until late November to suspend.

If it does not it faces being sent to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

Washington says Iran's efforts to produce its own nuclear fuel are part of a covert bid to produce nuclear arms. Iran says it wants the fuel for nuclear reactors that generate electricity.

"Right now, the Isfahan UCF facility is 70 percent operational," said Mohammad Ghanadi, deputy head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization.

"I can say that 21 out of the 24 workshops in this facility have become operational," he added in a speech at the plant to visiting lawmakers, extracts of which were broadcast on state television.

The Isfahan plant is designed to convert uranium ore, or yellowcake, into uranium hexafluoride. This in turn can be spun in centrifuges to produce enriched uranium.

Moderately enriched uranium can be used to fuel nuclear power reactors. But uranium can also be enriched further to make bomb-grade material.

Iran has announced plans to convert 37 tons of yellowcake at Isfahan—enough to produce material for five atomic warheads according to nuclear experts.

But diplomats close to the IAEA say Iran has so far produced only a few kilograms of uranium hexafluoride in experimental tests at Isfahan. *Reuters*

Delayed Darfur peace talks set to start in Nigeria

ABUJA—Sudan's government and two rebel groups fighting in Darfur start a fresh round of peace talks on Monday to try to end a conflict that has sparked international outcry and triggered one of the world's humanitarian crises.

The talks, initially meant to start last Thursday, were delayed because of a transport mix-up, which meant that many rebel delegates only arrived in Abuja at the weekend.

Previous peace negotiations in Nigeria's capital dragged on for three weeks only to collapse with no agreement, but international mediators say they hope this time will be different.

"My impression is that this time people are more willing to discuss," said Jan Pronk, the UN secretary general's special representative in Sudan.

The two rebel groups launched a revolt in western Sudan in early 2003 after years of skirmishes between mainly African farmers and Arab nomads over land. They accuse the government of arming Arab militias, known as Janjaweed, to crush them and their civilian sympathizers, a charge Khartoum denies.

The conflict has driven 1.5 million people from their homes and the United Nations estimates 70,000 people have died from malnutrition and disease in the last seven months alone.

The United States has called the campaign of killing, raping and looting unleashed by the Janjaweed militias genocide, and a UN resolution has threatened to impose sanctions on Khartoum if it does not stop the violence and disarm the militias.

Both the rebels and the government say they are committed to the talks, which are sponsored by the African Union (AU), but mistrust between the two sides runs as deep as ever.

"We are interested in finding a just and sustainable peace. We are here for that purpose," said Sharif Harir, the chief negotiator for the main rebel movement, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA).

"But we have to look at what they (the government) have to offer. My personal impression is that they are not serious," he said.

Sudanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs Najeeb Al-Kheir Abdul Wahab said his government was open to "whatever can bring a solution" but said the rebels also have to agree to put their fighters in cantonment sites and lay down their weapons. *Reuters*

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Girl latest Thai victim of bird flu

BANGKOK—A 14-year-old girl was confirmed Monday as being the 12th person in Thailand to die this year from bird flu, the country's health ministry said.

Test results confirmed that the girl from the northern province of Sukhotai, who died six days ago, had the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus.

"She was on the list of suspected cases after she died after being sick for 11 days," said Charal Trinvuthipong, the director of Thailand's bird flu center. "The lab test result found she had H5N1."

At least 19 people have also died of the disease in Vietnam since December last year and millions of birds have died or been culled across Asia.

Six Asian nations have reported a resurgence of the virus amid fears that the disease has become endemic in the region.

Five people have been confirmed as having bird flu in Thailand since the second wave of outbreaks, with four of them having died.

An 11-year-old girl, who was cremated before full tests were carried out, is also listed as a "probable" case and is suspected of passing the disease on to her mother who cared for her in hospital. She also died.

Thai Premier Thaksin Shinawatra announced a "war" on bird flu for October and told officials that he wanted the country cleared of the disease by the end of the month.

But bird flu was identified in 41 of Thailand's 76 provinces from Oct. 1 to 22, more than at the start of the month, according to a statement from the bird flu center. *AFP*

8 Palestinians killed in Israeli missile strikes

GAZA CITY—Eight Palestinians including two security service members were killed in a major Israeli incursion in the southern Gaza Strip overnight, Palestinian security sources and hospital officials said Monday.

The fighting erupted hours before the start of a crucial parliamentary debate on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip, ahead of a vote on Tuesday.

Police have deployed outside the Knesset ahead of expected demonstrations by settlers against the plan, under which all 8,000 Jewish residents of the Gaza Strip would be evacuated, as well as several hundred settlers from four enclaves in the northern West Bank, by the end of 2005.

In the Gaza Strip, eight Palestinians were killed and 25 wounded, including civilians, when the Israeli army fired at least four air-to-ground missiles at a national security service position in the Khan Yunis area, security officials said.

One civilian was gunned down in automatic weapons fire, they said. *AFP*

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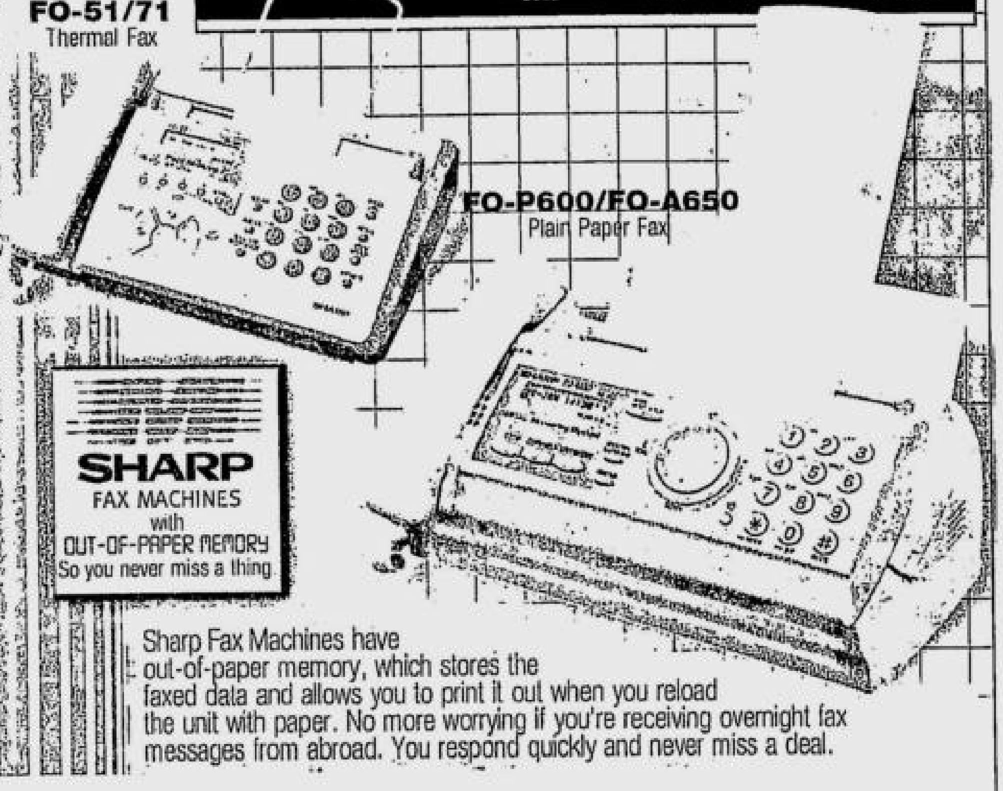

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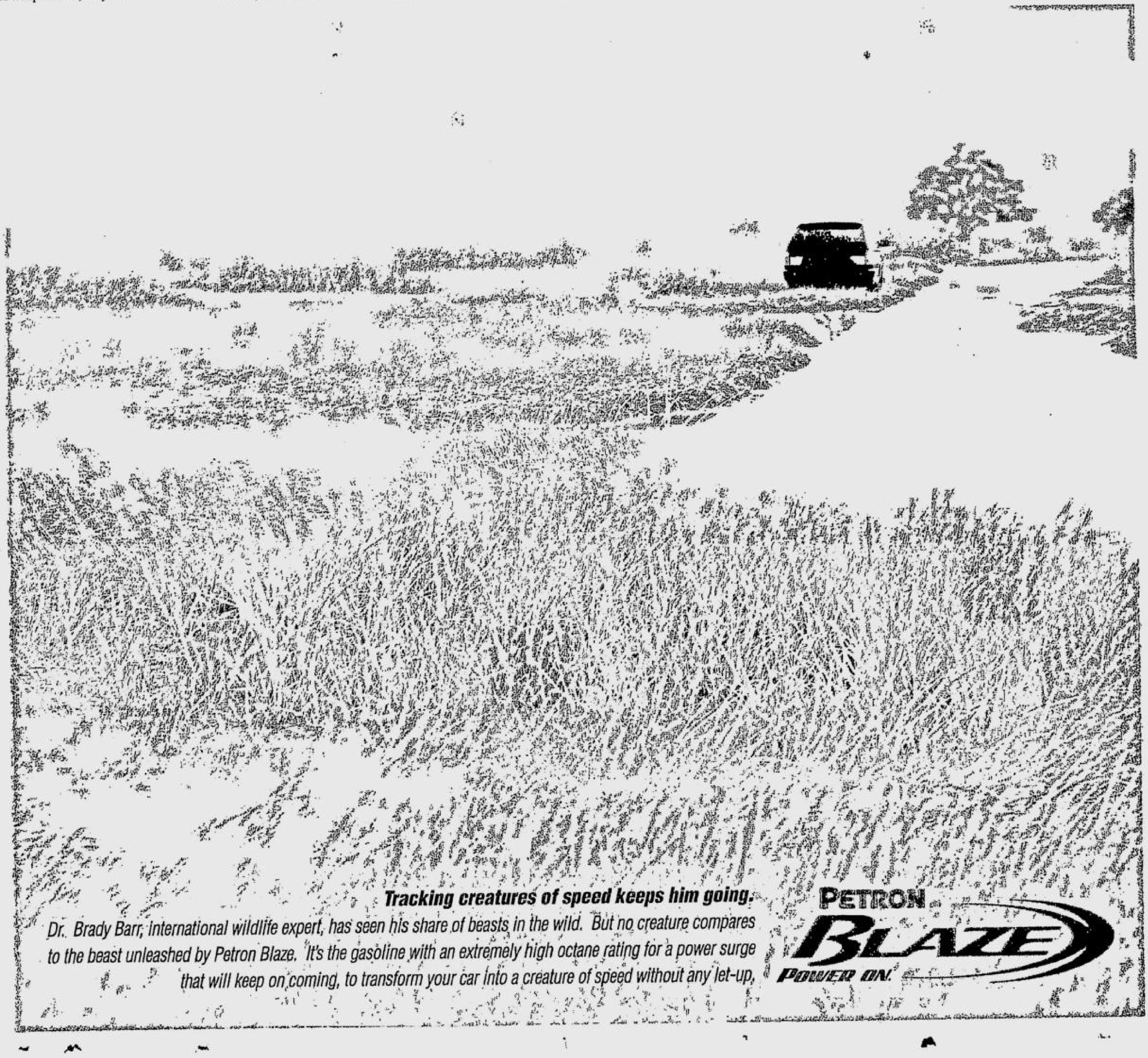
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Fixed term

EDITORIAL

LAST week President Arroyo announced the appointment of Lt. Gen. Efren Abu, the commander of the troops that quelled the Oakwood mutiny last year, as the successor of Gen. Narciso Abaya as Armed Forces chief of staff. Abaya will retire on Friday when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56.

Abaya is reported to be in a hurry to leave an Armed Forces whose reputation is already in tatters because of the corruption case involving Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, suspended AFP comptroller. Abu must be having mixed emotions, because while promotion to AFP chief of staff is a great honor, he probably would prefer to have been elevated to the post under more auspicious circumstances.

Abu is not going to stay long in the AFP chief's post; he will retire on June 24 next year, or just about eight months from now. We hope Abu's appointment will not mark the start of another round of "musical chairs" involving the highest post in the military.

During President Macapagal-Arroyo's first term, the one where she served out the unexpired tenure of deposed President Joseph Estrada, she appointed six AFP chiefs of staff. They were Generals Diomedio Villanueva (14 months), Roy Cimatu (less than four months), Benjamin Defensor (the shortest term at 80 days although technically he was supposed to serve only 48 hours), Dionisio Santiago (less than five months) and Narciso Abaya (more than 18 months).

This game of musical chairs may have been politically justifiable then because she had to insure the loyalty of the generals who had a big role in ousting Estrada. But then, as it is now, the practice of appointing AFP chiefs for very short periods is not logically justifiable. It may even give rise to periods of political instability instead of promoting political security. The AFP chief's post is not supposed to be used like a lollipop to be dangled and given to certain generals to keep them contented and pacified.

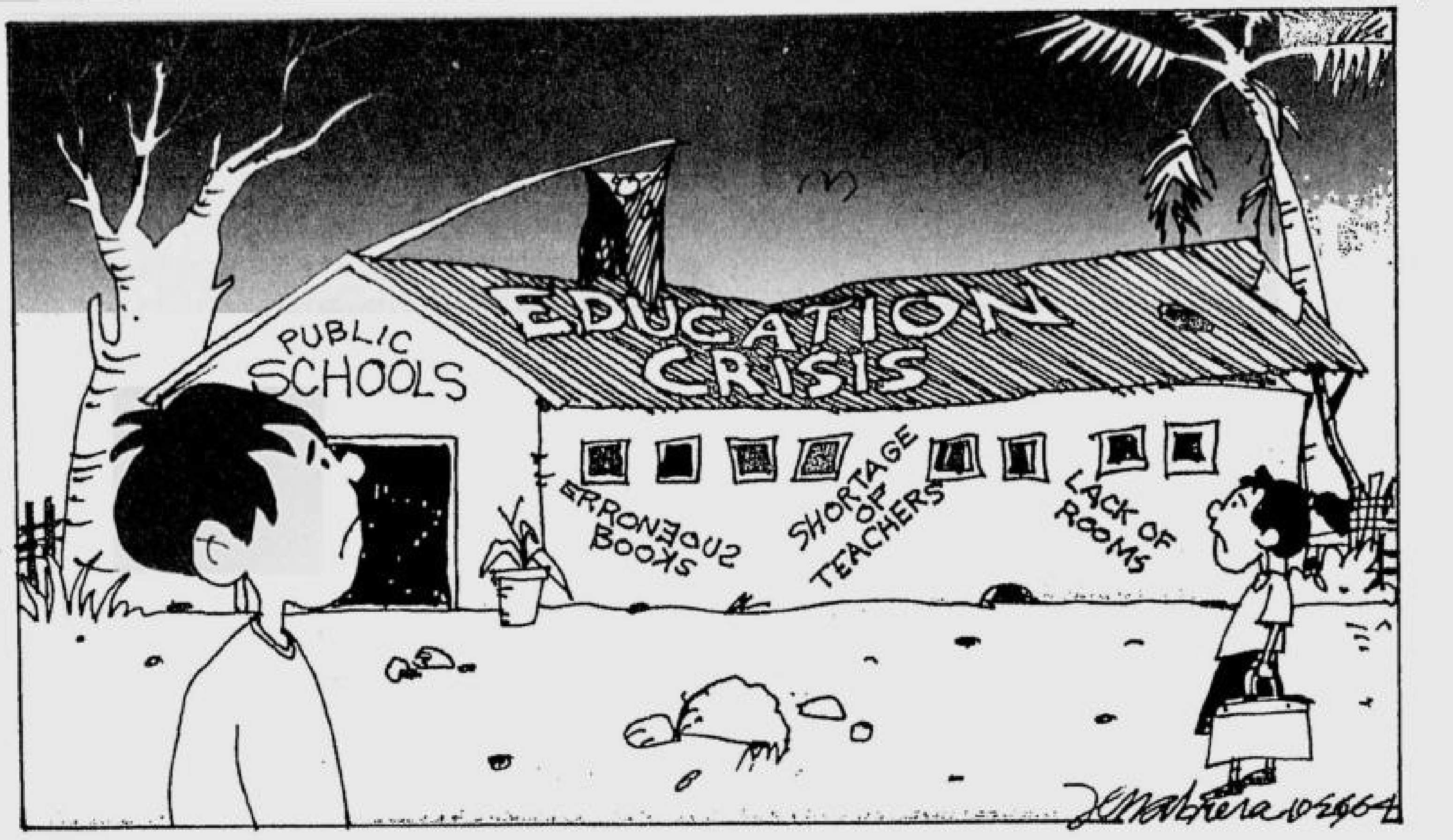
We believe that the generals would like to be treated like professional soldiers who will abide by the decision of their commander in chief on all matters, including the appointment of the AFP chief of staff. Seniority, of course, is a big factor in appointments but it is not the only factor. There have been instances when a president practiced what is called "deep selection," appointing a junior general over the heads of senior ones. That is part of the prerogatives of a commander in chief.

The Constitution says that the tour of duty of the AFP chief of staff shall not exceed three years. In times of war or other national emergency declared by Congress, the president may extend his tour of duty. But what we have seen during the first term of Ms Arroyo, and what we're seeing now, is that the AFP chiefs of staff have been serving short terms.

A short term for the AFP chief of staff is not conducive to long-term planning for the Armed Forces. It does not promote continuity of programs and policies. And ultimately, it is expensive for the country, for the AFP chief of staff has to be given the retirement pay of a four-star general when he retires. If an AFP chief of staff serves out the full three-year term, the government pays the retirement pay of only one general in three years, instead of three or four if that many generals are made AFP chief during the same period of time.

To repeat, the game of musical chairs may have made political sense during the President's first term when she had to think of insurance against coups and other disturbances from a restive military. But now that she has won an electoral mandate, there is no longer any need to insure the loyalty of the military—or is there? The President can now appoint an AFP chief who will enjoy a three-year tour of duty instead of one who will soon be saying his goodbyes shortly after he has warmed his seat.

Congress ought to seriously consider a proposal made by a legislator to fix the term of the AFP chief of staff at three years. This could be done by legislation and may not need a constitutional amendment since the Constitution says that the AFP chief's tour of duty "shall not exceed three years." Then the President would not feel bound by politics or feelings of gratitude to appoint generals who will retire in a few months to the top military post. Then she can choose the most qualified among them so that he can carry out reforms within a longer period and promote stability in an institution that has been intermittently experiencing instability since Edsa I.



'Mom killers' and convents

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"Get thee to a nunnery. Go!" — Hamlet

WITHOUT fanfare, 300 Catholic nuns in 11 convents worked with international researchers, led by a Filipino scientist, in experiments lasting over four years to produce a new rice variety that could curb the region's "serial mom killer": iron-deficiency anemia.

After screening over 1,600 varieties, scientists developed IR681440, the Asian Development Bank Review notes. It has "approximately four to five times more iron…than most varieties currently consumed in the Philippines,"

"The new experimental rice variety (is) high in both iron and zinc," adds Chemical Weekly. "Both are normally deficient in a rice rich diet."

About 6 out of every 10 pregnant women in Asia, and 40 percent of schoolchildren, are iron-deficient. This reduces their immunity to disease, savaging their physical and mental capacities.

"In the Philippines, more than 35 percent of women, aged between 15 and 49, are iron deficient," the United Nations Children Fund states. "More than 500 women die during pregnancy and childbirth each year."

Commercial varieties already meet immediate needs. But most are short of iron, zinc and other essential micro-nutrients. They leave vast numbers worldwide vulnerable.

For years, ways to curb this "serial mom-killer" eluded scientists. Iron tablets proved costly and required complex import systems. What if rice, "extensively eaten by the poor across Asia, was naturally bred and selected for high iron content?" mused ADB health specialist Lisa Studdert.

The search for micronutrient-rich rice brought together, in the mid-1990s, scientists from the International Rice Research Institute, University of the Philippines, International Food Policy Research Institute, Cornell and Adelaide Universities.

Without notice, an iron-packed strain emerged in the late 1990s from an experiment for something else: rice able to thrive in degraded soils and cold.

"By chance, a variety designed to tolerate low temperatures inherited richness in iron and zinc from one of its parents," IRRI's Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio explained. "It had good flavor, texture and cooking qualities—and was high-yielding."

But two typhoons flattened Los Baños fields where the first seeds were being multiplied for trials. And would IR68144's high concentrations of iron and zinc stay after the grain had been processed, cooked and digested? For that, a large human consumption trial was essential.

Quietly, 27 Catholic nuns stepped forward to test the new variety. "The sisters, who were 25 to 35 years old, were particularly suitable for this experiment, because of their disciplined life-styles and modest diets," said Gregorio who served as research coordinator.

For six months after their consent, their convent became a laboratory. Every grain was tracked. Cooking and blood tests were monitored.

Preliminary tests showed that the serum ferritin levels in the blood of those who ate IR68144 leaped two or three times higher. The positive results led to 300 nuns in 11 convents participating in the second phase. The trial concluded in September 2003.

Sisters who consumed high-iron rice "ingested about 20 percent more iron than those who consumed regular rice," the ADB noted. "On average, they increased their body iron by 10 percent."

"Those consuming control rice actually lost 6 percent of their body iron," it added. "The greatest increases in body iron were in the women who consumed the most iron from bio-fortified rice."

The conclusions validate parallel Cornell and Los Baños tests that minerals in IR68144 remained after processing and eating. "Both experiments were positive for absorption of the micro-nutrient elements."

So where does this experiment go from here, after the nuns bow out, just as quietly as when they began? Its implications ripple far beyond Los Baños fields and Manila convents. In India, severe iron deficiency causes the deaths of 50,000 pregnant women. In Afghanistan, 65 percent of children under five are anemic.

"The next step is to conduct trials in a community setting and look at the effect on children's iron status," ADB health specialist Lisa Studdert writes. "A study is planned for Bangladesh in 2004-2005."

IR68144 seeds were developed "using traditional science," IRRI's director general, Dr. Ronald P. Cantrell, said. "No biotechnology was involved."

Seed grown in Los Baños are being shipped to research organizations in various countries for adaptability testing. The painstaking process of crossbreeding then begins. Crossbreeding could breed into the new plant pest and disease resistance and hardiness for local conditions.

The Danish International Development Agency, US Agency for International Development, and Australian Center for International Agricultural Research funded part of this project.

If there are no hitches, IR68144, or its offspring, could be released to farmers here and abroad in two or three years.

The new rice offers the prospect of decisively bringing to heel iron-deficiency anemia in the world's poorest regions.

"Despite the weight of scientific supervision, the effectiveness of the trial depended on the tireless help of the sisters themselves," IRRI notes. The "gloomy Dane's" counsel of repairing to the cloisters may yet beat this "serial mom killer."

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Credibility

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A RALLY by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas was dispersed last week at Welcome Rotunda in Quezon City. The marchers had just come from the Department of Agriculture where they camped out for a couple of nights. After a dialogue with DA officials, they marched to Malacañang to send their lamentations to their President. Or since they knew that was going to fall on deaf ears, to assail the walls of the Palace with their shouts.

It was not clear who provoked whom, the riot police or the marchers, but the rally was scuttled. The marchers claimed it was violent, the police claimed they applied only the right amount of force. The latter were not in a good mood. One of their own, station commander Manolo Martinez, had just been gunned down a few days before by people they suspected to be the marchers' friends.

The marchers, on the other hand, did not particularly mind defying the authorities. It wasn't just that they were known to provoke routinely to press their point, it was that they had a pressing point to press. That point was hunger, the one that is already gripping many parts of the country today, and the one that is bound to ravage the whole of it tomorrow, with the exception of the villages of Makati which are so food-secure its residents' biggest headache is how to lose weight.

It is not clear who provoked whom at Welcome Rotunda for the rally to be dispersed. But that is not important. What is important is that it reminds us of a grim reality, which is the setting in which the scandal rocking government today—yes, government and not just the AFP—is taking place. The disappearance of public monies is happening alongside the disappearance of food. The skimming of the fat of the land by a privileged few is happening while the teeming many go hungry. That is a combustible mix.

I did say in a previous column that what was worrisome about the growing problem of food scarcity, or plain famine, was that it was happening alongside displays of profligacy by government. That profligacy wasn't just to be seen in lifestyle, though the First Couple flouted their own strident injunctions for government officials to scrimp and save by bringing their entire family and friends, with the *yayas* too, along to see China. They would justify that later by saying they used their own money for it, which gave whole new meanings to living within one's means. Their means are truly awesome. More than that, the penchant for wastefulness was to be seen in GMA's defense of the other Garcia, GSIS boss Winston, who was the object too of corruption charges, and her appointment of Ramon Revilla to the PEA. If she had decided to advertise her obliviousness to the plight of her country, or the cries of her people, she could not have done a better job.

When I wrote that column, pointing to the dangers of a situation where want coincided with excess, where a president threw cake to the hungry a la Marie Antoinette, the Carlos Garcia exposé hadn't happened yet. What had happened was that a few months earlier GMA filled every kilometer of road from here to kingdom come with posters of herself, using public funds held by Pagcor and PCSO.

Aquilino Pimentel speculates that the exposé on Garcia's ill-gotten wealth, which is just the tip of the iceberg, the submerged part being the wealth that went to his superiors, was leaked by the CIA after GMA fell from grace with George Bush. Well, I've heard the same speculation over the last few weeks, in light particularly of the Garcia exposé taking place alongside the Heritage Foundation's assessment of GMA as the weakest leader in Asia. Maybe it's coincidence, maybe George W's government is doing a number on her. But whether one or the other, it was just an exposé waiting to happen. It was merely a tossup which one was going to be exposed first, the military or the civilian bureaucracy. Winston was pointing in the direction of the civilian before Carlos swerved it in the direction of the military.

But whether one or the other, whether it's the military or the civilian bureaucracy that finds itself in the firing line, all of government reaps the bitter harvest with all this. It is not merely because GMA is Garcia's commander in chief, or indeed because the pillage happened during the pit of GMA's "war against terror," though the last bears repeating again and again. It is also that the GMA regime has absolutely no credibility to prosecute the defenders.

Nothing dramatizes that more than that Ignacio Arroyo, Mike's expendable brother (at least he was the one left holding the bag labeled "Jose Pidal" that his *kuya* dropped on his lap while fleeing the wrath of God) is one of those making life hell for Garcia in the House. I wonder what he said when Garcia refused to answer his questions on the ground that he, Garcia, had a "right to silence." I wonder if the other congressmen could remember enough to howl in delight at the spectacle of the monumental farce.

GMA would have Garcia court-martialed? The rest of the country would have her impeached. Every act of pillage her minions commit can only remind the world of the acts of pillage she and her husband have committed. How is Garcia's raid of the AFP budget to earn a lease on life any different from GMA's raid of the national treasury to earn a lease on power? How is Garcia's ownership of various monies and properties under various names any different from Jose Pidal's ownership of various monies and properties under various names, not least the pseudonym Mike Arroyo? Credibility is not their strongest suit.

Meanwhile, the rabble is marching down the streets, the growling in their mouths drowned only by the growling in their stomachs.

Surrender to enemy within?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

OUTGOING AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya has proposed that the tasks of procurement, logistics and comptrollership in the military—all of which have to do with funds—be turned over to the civilian sector, while the military focuses on operations. Doubtless, in proposing this separation of functions, Abaya wishes to eliminate the opportunities that have caused the big mess that has befallen the military, following the shenanigans of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and whoever else are being implicated with him.

But the separation of functions Abaya proposes will be a cop-out, a surrender to the enemy within. It will not help the military to abdicate any of its functions, since the logistics/procurement functions have been part and parcel of the system since time immemorial. The solution is not to abdicate functions but to find good, honest and upright people to perform them. There must be such people who only need to be motivated properly to do their jobs the best way they can. I'm sure they want to help redeem the military's image.

* * *

Some weeks back, a group of artists and art students gathered at "Sining Taktakan," a monthly forum of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, during which the question of how the Filipino artist fares and why he or she is being left behind, or at least, is not on the same level as other Asians was tackled. It was pointed out that a number of outstanding Filipino artists have become big successes abroad, like pianist Cecile Licad, tenor Otoniel Gonzaga and singer Lea Salonga, but by and large, as writer Amadis Ma. Guerrero put it in an article, Pinoy artists still lack a "formula" to make the international community sit up and take notice.

The resource speakers, all noted artists, had their own theories about this elusive formula for success. Eugene Castillo, a Filipino-American from Sacramento, California who was recently appointed new music director of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, opined that Filipino artists lack fire. According to Guerrero, Castillo quoted from Robert Frost, "...From what I've tasted of desire/I hold with those who favor fire," and then asked, "Where is the fire (of Filipino artists)"?

* * *

Castillo's remark drew a rejoinder from well-known concert pianist Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz, professor in piano of the UP College of Music and 1996 TOYM Awardee for the Arts. A former child prodigy who has perhaps won the most international awards among Filipino concert pianist since, Cruz obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the Manhattan School of Music in New York City. In the interest of providing our readers something new to think about, I am reproducing his letter to Castillo:

"I have been living quietly as an artist in the Philippines for 13 years, after having been brought up in and schooled in New York City for almost 15 years. I realized that my silence has been blindingly golden, yet blatantly deafening after I read Amadis Ma. Guerrero's article, 'Is the Pinoy artist global?' (PDI, 9/13/2004)

"Your generalization that Filipino artists 'lack fire' is unfounded and irresponsible! You have not lived among Filipino artists in our beloved country long enough and listened to each and every one of us to reach such conclusion. You haven't even contributed an ounce to the development of our arts and culture, which some of us have come home to do, thinking not of ourselves but of others!

"Many of the Filipino youths look up to their artists as their role models. But sadly your lament, which lacks nationalism, might have helped dash those youths' hopes and dreams to become the next generation of artists. In so doing, you have made the work of the artistic mentors—who have gone beyond their humanity to try to inspire—much more difficult.

"Just as there's no such thing as a bad orchestra, only a bad conductor, there's no such thing as a bad student, because his mind is molded by the good his teacher, his leader, imparts. But somehow you have succeeded in making the Filipino artist, who is also a mentor in his own right, also look bad.

"What really is 'fire' to you? Is it the cheap and insincere choreographed movements of performers which, to the unknowledgeable and artistically ignorant, seem to compensate for the mediocrity of true artistry, or the lack thereof? Or is it the melting pot of cultures crying out to be sculpted, discovered deep inside the souls of the youth, the essential flame never found in the souls of the rest of the world?

"The Filipino youth simply has to be disciplined and that 'fire' that you seek will burn eternally. And that—contrary to your audience's opinion—is the 'formula' that has been proven time and again, in far, far places, by Filipino artists like myself, causing multitudes to sit up and take notice!

"In the Philippines, we take the Arts seriously even though our government has ignored it—just like all things good for any country are ignored by its government. We Filipino artists are fighting an uphill battle to preserve and propagate the identity of our nation through the Arts. Even if you are an American citizen, Filipino blood runs through your veins. We beseech you to be Filipino and help us help other Filipinos—not be the kind who takes up the mentality that even crabs envy.

"Since you are employed by the institution considered by generations of Filipino artists, including those who have moved to other shores, as our home, I would like to end my sonnet by quoting Peter Parker's Uncle Ben: 'With great power comes great responsibility.' And that especially applies to inanities filled with arrogance and condescension that may come from the mouths of those who consequently tie a knot tight enough to hang themselves with."

Misplaced priorities

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF THE President still needs proof that the chair and perhaps the members of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) don't have enough work on their hands, perhaps she should ask them why, given all the excesses of the media, but especially of TV, Maria Consoliza Laguardia, the MTRCB chair, saw fit to act on one trivial complaint: that TV hosts Zsa-zsa Padilla and Regine Velasquez were wearing "sexy" outfits on the prime-time talent shows they host.

By any yardstick, neither Padilla nor Velasquez can be called "bold" or even "titillating" actresses. Indeed, their images can be classified as "wholesome," in that they are considered serious actresses and even then, are seldom seen in sexy roles or portrayals.

And yet some viewers apparently were offended by the attire the women wore on the TV shows they host, which both promise the prize of fame and fortune to lucky aspiring singers. Padilla and Velasquez were said to be quite fond of wearing "revealing" outfits, fancy beaded clinging gowns that showed plenty of flesh and cleavage, through high-cut slits, low-cut backs and plunging necklines.

What I find strange is that some worthies would still be moved to find offense in such alluring wear, when singers from the time of Carmen Soriano and Pilita Corrales have been parading around in them. These singers, after all, aren't known for belting out ditties from "The Sound of Music." Their songs fall under the category of romantic ballads, but ballads sung by women pining after unrequited love, and lacerating themselves for loving well but not wisely. You don't sing torch songs in pinafores and a postulant's habit!

Velasquez, I thought, said it best when she declared that "our gowns may be sexy, but we are not dirty women," if "dirty" is the right translation for "*malaswa*."

* * *

PERHAPS context is all. What is the purpose, after all, of a singer's slinky outfit? Is it to add the edge of allure and sensuality to a song about longing and despair? Then it's all of a package with the overall message.

There was once a local singer who specialized in channeling the persona of the fallen woman while underlining her songs' sexual content by suggestive gestures. So it's still possible for a singer to be covered from neckline to hemline and still be sexually alluring by way of gestures, voicing and lingering looks. Will our censors spend time even on these?

The MTRCB chair's concern over sexy outfits may be amusing, but it's not so funny when compared to the other excesses we see on TV. For some weeks now, friends have been urging me to write something about the propensity of TV and radio reporters to subject even young children victimized by sexual abusers to a grilling in front of the camera.

Of course, they take care to conceal the identity of the young victims, shooting them from the back or focusing on their hands or lips. But does the child know this? And isn't the very act of interviewing, of being asked questions about such a frightful incident while in the throes of fear or embarrassment, doubly traumatic to the child?

What purpose does it serve to subject a child to such an ordeal. From the stories I have seen, the reporter doesn't manage to elicit any more information than how the child feels and what he/she wants to happen to his/her abuser, who may be a parent.

I'm glad that Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman has seen fit to speak out on the matter and remind reporters that the pursuit of a story is no excuse for inhumanity and for hurting a child who has already gone through so much suffering.

* * *

A FRIEND of mine was on her way home from San Francisco on the day a military plane blocked the Naia runway, necessitating the diversion of their PAL flight to Cebu. My friend said she understood that it was emergency, but she feels PAL could have done so much more to make a great inconvenience much less harrowing for their passengers.

In the first place, she complained, the only reason she and her sister overcame her brother-in-law's objection to flying PAL was that it was the only airline that would be making a "non-stop flight" from San Francisco to Manila. "My brother-in-law is not well, and we thought a short 10-hour flight would be much better for him," she said. But when they arrived at the check-in counter, they found to their chagrin that, without informing them, PAL had changed the route to include a stop-over in Honolulu.

Then, after circling Naia several times, the pilot finally informed them that they would be diverted to Cebu, due to the accident at the runway. In Cebu, my friend recounted, the crew immediately herded the business class passengers to the lounge but left the rest of them to fend for themselves.

"None of the public phones were working," my friend remembered, "and there were no phone cards for sale." They were not even allowed to use the phones in the lounge, and when an airport employee tried to intercede in my friend's behalf, he was roundly scolded. Finally, my friend was able to call her relatives in Manila by borrowing the cell phone of a considerate immigration officer.

Hours after arriving in Cebu, the PAL crew finally paid attention to the economy-class passengers, distributing sandwiches and bottled water. But when, a few minutes later, the announcement was made that they would be flying on to Manila, the crew immediately began packing away the sandwiches, to the annoyance of passengers who had yet to receive their sandwiches.

"I understand it was an emergency," said my friend, "but PAL could have done so much more to help us, their customers."

How much do you want to bet that my friend will be flying PAL again? Or that any tourists on board that flight would want to visit the country again?

Declarations of five captives

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(EXTRACTS from the declarations of the five captives from Jolo who sought shelter in the warship Circe on April 10, 1864. In his report to the minister of foreign affairs, Commissioner Regio who had been sent to report on the Spanish monarch's overseas domain stated that five captives had been turned over to them as a gesture of good will. It was well known at the time that Jolo was the great market for slaves in the archipelago and was therefore the core and general quarters of piracy. Many captives from Surigao, Iloilo, Misamis and other points arrived in Jolo frequently. Regio further reported that the sultan considered himself a prince and equal to the Spanish monarch, even if he had to pay tribute, and was therefore superior to the governor general. He also noted the care that the sultan and his advisors carefully cultivated to maintain themselves as a semi-independent state.)

The first, named Francisco Enriquez, like his companions, was a native of Daet in the province of Camarines Norte, 25 years of age. With seven others he was captured in the area of Aguas Isles and brought to Tawi-Tawi and from there to Jolo by his owner, Datu Ume, where he cultivated the soil and performed other chores. The Muslims were unable to force him to deny the Christian faith despite the circumstances and the punishment used to that end. Captives who converted to Islam were as a rule treated better and married off to a Mora. The five complained of mistreatment and the scarcity and bad food they were given.

Upon the appearance and stay of any foreign vessel, the owners of the captives would take great care to keep away and hide their slaves. It was deemed unsafe to merely keep an eye on them, thus precautionary measures were taken so that they would not be seen since there was always a chance that they might escape.

When the Circe arrived, Enriquez was working in an interior hacienda. His owner allowed him to flee and to seek shelter in the schooner. He expressed the desire to return to his hometown where he had left mother, wife and children, about whom he had heard nothing since he had fallen into the hands of the Moros.

The second captive no longer remembered the name he bore as a Christian before he was captured. Nor did he know his age; he was unable to calculate because he had been kept in a state of slavery for so long. His Muslim name was Lantana and he professed the Muslim religion although he scarcely knew anything about it. He may have been about 25 years of age and claimed he was born in Cuyo. His master had married him off to a Filipina captive. At the instigation of his wife and because of the bad treatment they received from their owner, he decided to escape. He intended to follow his wife to her town.

The woman's name was Maria Biermosa. She was a native of Siyuban in Capiz and was around 40 years of age. She was a weaver by profession. On her way to her field in Baybay, Leyte, she was captured by Moros in a vinta along with three other persons whom she never saw again as they sailed in a banca a great distance from shore. They brought her to Capuz in Samales where she served the daughter of Datu Ume to whom she had been given as a present and in whose hacienda she stayed three years and another three in Jolo.

After five years her master had her marry Lantana who was in the same household. Their food consisted of camote, a root crop and palay that had not yet been husked. They toiled in the house as well as in the fields cultivating the soil while being supervised by Moros who were in charge of the captives that they called *uripon*. They did not, however, force her to renounce her religion. The Moros in charge of them were in the habit of making their slaves their concubines, but to this fate she had not been destined.

Maria desired to return to her hometown where she was married and had two sons, the oldest of whom was also married and himself had two sons. Since her capture, she had not had any news of her family. With regard to the inconvenience of her new husband, she manifested no fear. If her first husband were alive, she would provide him with another wife but she was determined to remain with Lantana.

Francisco San Miguel was the fourth captive presented. He was from Kalibo, Capiz, a semi-desert island southeast of the interior mouth of the Strait of San Bernardino. He was a sexton by profession, 30 years of age, and had been in captivity for eight years. He was captured as he sailed in a boat of the governor of Capiz together with his wife and two children. They separated him from his family and he had not heard of them again except for a rumor that they were slaves of a datu of the Moros of Sabito. He wanted to return to his town where he still had relatives.

The last was called Reinaldo Baldomero from Leyte, a laborer and 30 years of age. Thirteen years earlier, he was on his way to Tanawan with two companions to trade in tobacco when they were captured by Moros in a vinta from Jolo. He agreed with the other four regarding the bad treatment and the impossibility of escape.

(*D. Patricio de la Escosura, "Filipinas y Jolo."*)

Sidebar

YOUNG BLOOD

Jed M. Eva III

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

BUT for the constant humming of the air-conditioning units, the silence would have been complete. Still every now and then, someone muffles a cough, or clears his throat. I have a slight cold, and my incessant sniffling makes me self-conscious. This is a place where noise is unwelcome. The slightest sound is greeted by disapproving glances.

Around me, many are praying, but this is not a church. And although it is a Sunday, I am not hearing Mass. This is a classroom in De La Salle University, but today its seats are not occupied by college students. In their place are 45 graduates of various law schools who are taking the final step before becoming (they hope) members of the Philippine bar.

I am not one of them, and though I envy the fact that they are just a step away from becoming members of one of the noblest professions, I do not envy the look of desperation I see on their faces as they search for answers to the questions that will determine whether their four (or more) years in law school and months of reviewing will be rewarded with the much-coveted title of "Attorney."

My small role in this drama they call the bar exams is to make sure that the examinees do not look for extralegal forms of inspiration—i.e., their seatmates' notebooks—when answering the questions that will decide if they are fit to practice law. Helping me out are four other pairs of eyes—three other watchers, and our head watcher. This may sound like overkill, but it is a deterrent that must be put in place. (Examinees who get caught cheating are forever barred from taking the tests again. This makes flunking more attractive than forever throwing away one's chances of becoming a lawyer on the off-chance that your seatmate might have the answers to a question you can't figure out.)

The Supreme Court's preparations and procedures for the bar may strike some people as bordering on paranoia. For example, in this age of computers, the examiners tasked to prepare the questions are required to do so manually. With so much at stake, however, you can't be too cautious, as it would be a great injustice to allow the undeserving to pass, letting loose inept lawyers upon unsuspecting individuals. After all, the competence of counsel can spell the difference between land ownership and the loss thereof; freedom and an undeserved prison sentence; life and death.

Thus before, during and after the exams, everything humanly possible is done to make sure that the only factor that determines an individual's capacity to be a lawyer is his or her knowledge of the law. Barristers are told to make sure that test booklets do not have any markings aside from their answers. Examinees and watchers are rotated every Sunday. After the morning exam, the examinees are rearranged in the afternoon. Potential conflicts of interest are avoided (for instance, Supreme Court personnel serving in the exams are required to inform the bar confidant if they have relatives taking the bar).

The bar exams are so tough that passing is considered a feat in itself. The exams are composed of essay-type questions that leave very little room for guesswork. An examinee isn't only asked to answer several legal questions, but also to explain his answers and argue accordingly. There are 20 questions for every subject, but the volume of information law students need to memorize and process in order to give satisfactory answers can be mind-boggling. Little wonder that only 20 to 30 percent of those who take the exams pass. This means that among the 45 examinees in my room, perhaps 14 will be taking their oaths as lawyers next year. (This explains why even the most brilliant law grads say that before the first exam, you entertain notions of topping the bar, but after the last, you just wish you passed the damn thing.)

Despite the odds, however, over 4,000 law graduates try their luck every year. Their backgrounds vary. There are those who look like they went straight to law school fresh from college. Some, like my co-workers in the Court, worked their way through law school. Others look like they're old enough to be my father. (It is the last group that I admire most, for these people give a new meaning to the word persistence. Despite their greying hair, they have not given up their dream of becoming a *compañero*. Better late than never, I suppose.)

I've met very few people who claim to have enjoyed law school, and have met no one who said he relished the experience of taking the bar. So why do it? Are they driven by some noble purpose, a desire to right the wrongs of society, fight for the rights of the downtrodden and uphold the rule of law? Or are they in it for material gain, the lure of thousands of pesos in bonuses, billable hours and higher salaries?

Whatever their reason, I still have the greatest respect for those who have come from as far away as Mindanao to fulfill their dream of becoming an officer of the court. Notwithstanding the trials they have had to face—hours in the library; balancing work, family and law school; little sleep and a nonexistent social life—they have persevered, carrying with them their hopes and that of their families, making the necessary sacrifices so that they can become lawyers and improve their chances for better lives.

In a country where, as a general rule, one's prosperity is determined by one's ability to kiss ass, rather than by hard work—and your success is influenced by who you know rather than what you know—it is comforting to know that there are still some things that you can get only through patience and hard work. While other factors come into play (e.g. education, luck, good handwriting), I am secure in the knowledge that the bar is an exclusive club that does not accept individuals on the basis of their family names, good looks or bank accounts.

Not all of those who suffered for the four Sundays of the bar exams will be able to join the legal profession next year. But something tells me that those who do not will be back again next September in the same silent, air-conditioned rooms of De La Salle. Most will still have the same look of desperation. Perhaps, having gone through the exercise this year, they will be more confident, better prepared. But one thing is certain: they will continue to recite the same silent prayers. And I will hope that their prayers will be answered then, or if not, that they continue to nurture the dream that has gotten them this far.

Jed M. Eva III, 29, works at the Supreme Court.

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Lest we forget value formation

I AM afraid that amid our nationwide concern to improve the teaching of English, Science and Math in the public elementary schools, we might put farther on the sidelines another equally essential—but already widely ignored—element of child education: value formation.

There are aptitude tests to determine a child's competency in the academic subjects, and remedial measures are not entirely late. There is none for GMRC (good manners and right conduct). The aftermath of unwholesome values formed in childhood shows only at maturity—and is irreversible.

At least for those of us who have seen how things were some three or four decades ago, there is reason to believe that the home, the school, the Church and the State have gone askance in the value formation of the youth. Most parents now think that their obligation begins and ends in providing their children with food, shelter, clothing and education, and that all others belong to the teachers. The seed of moral guidance stunted in the home likewise finds inadequate nurturing in the school. Proof is kindergartens tend to focus more on teaching their pupils how to read, write, speak English and to count, which should rather be introduced yet in Grade I. The Church still sends catechists to public schools, and that is laudable; but gone are the good old days when parishes would also test how far their young flock had been spiritually honed through catechism contests conducted at the town plaza each summer vacation. Parental authority may not be renounced or transferred, says the Civil Code. But the State delights to assume that authority and responsibility by passing laws for every undesirable habit that parents and schools fail to nip in the bud. And yet ironically, we have more smokers and beer drinkers among youngsters today than we had in the past.

In more ways than one, the continuing moral degeneration in Philippine society is largely attributable to deficient value formation—at least at home and in the school—which intellectual education has not improved. Learning better English, Science and Math will indeed make our elementary school graduates better prepared for high school and college, and eventually for better jobs. Without good value education, however, they would fail to be the kind of God-fearing and law-abiding citizens that we want of them many years from now.

—RUDY L. CORONEL,
10 Venus St., Golden Country Homes,
Alangilan, Batangas City

Time for GSIS to focus on serving its members

PURSUANT to the GSIS Act of 1997, the GSIS certificate of membership acknowledges survivors or beneficiaries of GSIS members as "integral part of this Certificate" for purposes of social security benefits. The certificate itself negates the arguments that survivors should not receive GSIS benefits because they have not contributed to the GSIS funds; and that the grant of added benefits to them will be burden to the active members.

The pension increase and the Christmas bonus for survivors have long been granted (since 1991 under GSIS Resolution 352), and this has resulted in no harm to the GSIS pension fund. In fact, current GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia has repeatedly assured that the GSIS is a "rock of stability, the No. 1 and the most profitable and financially sound institution among all the GOCCs." This financial soundness cannot be just because of the exclusion of survivor-pensioners from the 2003 Christmas bonus. On this point, the board should recognize their vested rights as an "integral part" of the GSIS.

Secondly, as a system, the GSIS has to preserve or increase the benefits of all its members. We are talking here not only about insurance benefits, but also about loan benefits.

There is no question that many members were not able to get certain loans from the GSIS because the agency was reportedly in the process of computerizing its records. Another reason was that there was some kind of failure to properly post and credit loan payments.

The GSIS has sent its members forms with some data input from the new computerized records. Alas, the forms are filled with discrepancies. This is the very reason government offices and officials, including no less than Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., are criticizing the GSIS for sloppy records-keeping.

In another instant, a government employee has been certified by his office to have remitted all his loan payments, but GSIS records do not show this.

Whatever are the GSIS' reasons for its shortcomings, the fact is it has failed to preserve the loan benefits of members. The GSIS computer system is doing the opposite of what it is meant to do—it failed to preserve and increase the benefits of its members; it failed to deliver impeccable service at all times.

After amassing huge profits, as Garcia claims, and concentrating on computerization or system-maintenance, it is high time for the GSIS to focus on becoming a system that is truly for its members. A system after all exists for its members.

—ESTRELLA D. SOLIDUM, PhD,
University of the Philippines

Unimplemented laws

LET'S check on the number of laws (passed by the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Congresses) that remain unimplemented up to the present time owing to lack of money, absence of implementing rules and regulations or what-have-you.

If the number of such unimplemented laws is quite substantial, I appeal to the members of the 13th Congress to take a leave of absence. The savings to be derived from this move should be used in implementing such laws.

After all, what is the use of passing more and more laws when there are no funds available to implement them? We will just be creating false hopes among our people.

—PAUL R. MORTEL,
MBLA Court, Malanday,
Marikina City

Cassava flour for 'pan de sal'

NOW that we are in a financial crisis, we holler about the ever-shrinking *pan de sal*. The reason is the high cost of imported wheat.

Some 20-30 years ago, a law or executive order was issued requiring all bakeries to mix 20 percent cassava flour with wheat flour in whatever is baked. It was supposed to be a big economic blitz but only on paper. Obviously, the agency primarily responsible for the law's enforcement did not insist on its task.

Had this requirement been implemented, there could have been at least three cassava flour mills in the country today. One each in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Imagine the foreign exchange we could have saved all these years and the economic benefits we could have derived. But it's not too late. We can immediately start the project as it only takes 9-10 months for cassava to be harvestable and 12-15 months for the mill to be constructed.

Could the government's economic czars and the business tycoons please look into this?

—DANIEL F. INFANTE JR.,
San Vicente, Jaro, Iloilo City

Polomolok not a 'sleepy town'

THIS pertains to the article, "Ex-moro rebs become farming success (other side of story)," which appeared on the front page of the Sept. 27 issue of the INQUIRER.

We appreciate the newspaper for publishing the story, which recognized the efforts of foreign donors, like the USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao, to improve the economic life of our low-income families. However, featuring the Polomolok as a "sleepy municipality" is something that is highly objectionable. It is a sweeping statement that is entirely incorrect and unacceptable to our people.

The Commission on Audit report on the financial performance of municipalities in 2003 shows that our municipality is on top of other towns in South Cotabato province. Moreover, as a first-class municipality, we have been consistently contributing more than half of the province's real property tax collections.

—ERONIO P. MUNO,
municipal information officer,
Office of the Mayor,
Polomolok, South Cotabato

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

GSIS: propaganda and reality

REACTING to a paid advertisement extolling GSIS performance, may I bring this to the attention of the public:

As an RTC judge, I hold GSIS Policy No. 00001195762 which matured more than a year ago on June 1, 2003. When I claimed the mature value of P184,666, I was paid only the measly amount of P29,325.26. The GSIS claimed in the voucher that the Supreme Court failed to remit the premiums in the amount of P61,741.14, salary loan payments in the amount of P56,468.72 and policy loan payments in the amount of P37,130.88. I secured certifications from the accounting department of the Supreme Court to prove payments, and submitted the same to the GSIS.

Despite several letters, including those seeking help from Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. and the Supreme Court administrator, my claim for full payment of my insurance has remained in limbo.

If an RTC judge cannot even collect the value of his insurance policy, I can only imagine the travails of lowly government clerks. In fact, employees in my court are suffering the same fate.

—ISMAEL O. BALDADO,
executive judge,
RTC 7th Judicial Region,
Branch 45, Bais City

Kudos to PNCC

I HAPPENED to be at the Sta. Rita exit of the North Luzon Expressway one day last month when I saw traffic enforcers from the Philippine National Construction Corp. weighing and apprehending overloaded vehicles. I noticed that the enforcers used modern weighing scales to make sure that all vehicles—particularly trucks and trailers—complied with the anti-overloading law. To make sure that everyone knew they meant business, they even put up this big sign by the road announcing the implementation of Republic Act 8794.

It was good to see the PNCC seriously going about the business of ridding the NLEX of overloaded trucks. As we know, overloaded trucks and trailers pose a threat to other motorists. Imagine sharing a lane with a truck carrying scrap iron or construction materials whose driver is tired and sleepy from a night of driving or, maybe, has a deadline to meet. You won't have a chance against an out-of-control behemoth like that even if you're driving an SUV.

The truth is that even when drivers are at their most alert and careful, overloaded vehicles are still hard to control or maneuver. What's more, at any time of the day, overloaded vehicles not only hinder other motorists from getting a clear view of the road, but also cause traffic jams.

Without, or with considerably fewer, vehicles on the NLEX, those who routinely travel north will be assured of a safer, faster and more economical trip. More than that, imposing weight limits on vehicles will teach Filipino drivers to be disciplined about road care, which will make NLEX last longer.

The PNCC and its partners should be commended for this initiative. I hope that the people will support this campaign so that its implementation wouldn't lose steam and fall by the wayside. Think about it: One of the lives this campaign will save might be yours.

—VINCENT ABAD,
Cityland Townhouses, Baragngay
Oranbo, Pasig City

INQBOX

Dear Readers, Text us your comments, suggestions and views on today's news or how it was delivered. Tell us about the news you are interested in and the things you want improved in your favorite newspaper. Text INQUIRER <section keyword> name/city/message and send to 283 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe). The section keywords are indicated in the logo of each section.

Euanko ngaba! tsk ,tsk!

Do you think something good will come out of the investigation of the alleged ill-gotten wealth of some AFP officials?

"perhaps!", "maybe!", "somehow!", "eventually", "absolutely", "probably",—"ewan ko!"
—alfonso tolosa, *bacoor, cavite*

Yes, media and prayer power are vigilant. Let us continue 2 b watchful.
—cheryl pitalgo, *iloilo*

Wish ko lang mabawi ng gobyerno kahit 50% of d ill-gotten wealth para di na taasan power rate & taxes. O God help us!
—Victoria Sangalang, *Dagupan*

no, d investigation is a circus because d affluent generals will buy d best lawyers in town.
—gerry singson, *vigan city*

same old shit, different day.
—venson canoy, *pasig city*

indeed there is! this event will mark a new direction 4 AFP. And funds should be 4 d benefit of all, and not just 4 one!
—lyndon cambronero, *los baños*

nothing good will come out of the garcia investigation. It is all a farce! Those investigating him are just as corrupt!
—Janice Monte, *Muntinlupa*

Never! Der wil b ways 4 a cover-up and those crooks wil be let off
—Karlo Angelo Alamares, *Las Piñas City*

sana lang di matabunan ng pera, ang mata ng hustisya.
—rachel degoma, *iloilo*

The truth WIL NoT COMe OUT, BCOS iF DAT WiL Be, AFP WiL Be LEFT with No OFFICIALS ANYMORe.
—SCHENLEY CALAGOS, *Cebu*

"what GOOD does ANY INVESTIGATION, especially from d SENATE has brought to us? HOPING from d HOPELESS is damn DEPRESSING."
—Ted Benitez, *Cavite City*

no good can come out on ill-gotten wealth of Afp officials, may domino effect sa organization ang corruption s Afp.
—limuel b. ramoga, *general santos city*

i dont think so.
—ramon morada II, *davao city*

No. iF am wrong den dis is d 2nd time. D 1st was when i lukd up 2 dem as respectable n trustworthy, as in d way dey wore those uniforms.
—Nilda Baling, *Quezon City*

to the AFP officials they must resign and investigate well.
—marianne gomez, *butuan city*

None!
—L. Decena Martin, *San Agustin, Isabela*

INVESTIGATION? from d beginning it smells a whitewash wil happen. they wil cover Gen. Garcia's ass, as more commissions are expected
—nido hipolito, *davao city*

something good will surely come, & somethin coup myt be on d brew. Ü
—preciosa naz, *legaspi city*

nah, icO-cOrrupt din naman un nh ibang Officials!
—Honey Chua, *manila*

somethin gud wil com out if there's no whitewash, rather, SH[ME-THING GÜD 4 d AFP. Ü
—vince naz, *legaspi city*

Yeah! I think so, it sends a stern warning 2 future grafters of d AFP dat d govt is serious.
—Edwin B. Trinidad, *DOSCST, Davao*

No, bec these officials are far mOre pOwerful dan d people investigating dem.
—gilda tabocolde, *manila*

as always, WALA! but y some AFP Officials only? d investigation shud include Gen. Reyes kahit ba nasa puesto pa sya.
—tricia n. pribhdas, *quezon city*

perhaps there will be a good result 4 d investigation. d guestion is how long will it takes 4 d verdict? couple of years?!!!
—EFREN S. ALCANTARA, *QC*

i dont know-lets wait & see.
—anna marie veneracion, *quezon city*

No bcoz it wil confirm graft & corruption as alleged by d magdalo group.
—maricar indiongco, *manila*

yes coz gOverment is nOw dOing seriOus mOves on d investgatiOn.
—rommel otero, *iligan city*

no, bec. d official always invoking his right to self-incrimination when being questioned about his ill-gotten wealth
—Allan Jun D. Pinto, *Subic, Zambales*

SURE. At the very least, awareness to everyone.
—oliver tan, *zamboanga city*

something good? For a few weeks, perhaps. No, nothing good as usual.
—Mardi Suplido, *Silay City*

i think these Afp cases most likely will be one of those govt cases pending and unsolved
—malou flores, *pasig city*

Yes, recovering what was looted maybe impossible, but future attempts are prevented, or with difficulty.**—Ellen R,** *QC*

nothing, moro-moro lang yan, jas like d oder cases, if d congress investigates, 100% magulo yan, more kc dyan brilliant sa pagcorap, giv it 2 myk.
—roger garcia, *pasig*

Nope! Just lyk past investigations, nothing wil come out of it kc magtutulungan yang mga military officials na yan to cover-up.
—mike, *tagbilaran city*

i hope sOmethng gud cOmes out fr d afp nvestgtn 2 get rid of corrupt practices, otherwise dis govt wil finaly sink
—dr. jessie albeus, *naga city*

YES that we knew all along that the virulent cancer of our society—corruption has reached the very marrow.
—Delbert Casano, *Los Baños, Laguna*

NOTHING wil come out of this investigation, since time immemorial nobody has been prosecuted. Corruption is equated wid Aids... incurable.
—rachel navarro, *sta. ana, manila*

i think der is, kung di nila lulubayan, di pababayaan ang kaso.
—Harold Harvey Lu, *Davao City*

just like d other scandals b4, dis issue will pass, once newspapers no longer carry it in their frontpage
—jimmy samonte, *makati*

of course yes! there is, &there MUST Be. coz the future...it is where d stability of our nation &state rests &lies—one way or another.
—MARIA SIERDA, *Z.C.*

From now on, d public, with d help of media, will be more vigilant in exposing systems dat allow such corrupt practices.
—louie m. diaz de rivera, *lapulapu, cebu*

now dat investigations are ongoin, we are given hope dat d govt can minimize corruption and earn our trust. Other corrapt govt officials shud watch out!
—frances samonte, *Q.C.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A

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Transport grinds to a halt in Bicol

LEGAZPI CITY—Saying it was fed up with the successive and "seemingly unending" increases in the prices of petroleum products, the transport sector in the entire Bicol Region launched a two-day strike that started 1 a.m. yesterday, paralyzing public transport and prompting public schools to suspend classes.

The protesters said the move was only a warm-up for a national strike in the coming days.

At about noon yesterday, all passenger buses, Filcabs or utility vans and jeepneys plying strategic routes, both provincial and interprovincial, were already 100 percent paralyzed, said Nelson Lanuza and Jhoedex Valenzuela of Condor-Piston Bicol in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Mass action centers were also established in strategic areas in each of the six Bicol provinces where the strikers converged for their activities.

In Albay alone, about five mass action centers were set up as early as yesterday morning in Barangay Bañag and Daraga town Shell station, in Barangay Arimbay and downtown Legazpi City, and in front of the Bicol University in the Daraga-Legazpi boundary.

Support

According to Bayan Muna regional chair Willy Marbella, the two-day strike is far different from the previous movements since this time, they got solid support from almost all sectors as shown in yesterday's result.

"In our one-week preparation and consultations even with school and office administrators, they easily conformed with our cause," he said.

He said the objective of the two-day strike is to show the Bicolanos' indignant stance against President Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged connivance with the caprices of the three giant oil firms—Petron, Shell and Caltex.

Marbella said that since January to October of this year, diesel prices had increased 13 times. Diesel now costs P23.34 per liter from the original P6.5 a liter.

During the same period, premium gasoline increased 11 times and now costs P28.63 per liter while liquified petroleum gas (LPG) also increased eight times during the period, its cost ballooning from P317 in January to as high as P410 each tank at present.

The group also demanded a rollback of prices of these petroleum products to the 2002 levels where diesel was only P15.50 and gasoline, P18.50.

The strikers also urged the scrapping of the Oil Deregulation Law and asked legislators to act on the matter.

Nationalization

They called for the nationalization of the oil industry so that the government could have full control over the prices.

Marbella and Lanuza, however, said that they are not demanding any increase in passenger fare.

According to them, their move is valid as most Bicolanos, being in the country's second poorest region, can no longer afford the effects of skyrocketing prices of most vital commodities.

Mando Llanes, Piston vice president, who was here earlier, said the two-day strike is just a preparation for a national movement.

He also added that a similar strike in the transport sector was already conducted in Mindoro and Tarlac earlier.

The strike, however, failed to force banks to suspend transactions as they opened yesterday.

Overloading

Tricycles, especially those without franchise or colorum, did not join the strike and were seen overloaded with passengers, except for the province of Camarines Norte where the strike got full support even from the tricycle drivers.

According to the strike organizers, they had nothing to do with the tricycle drivers.

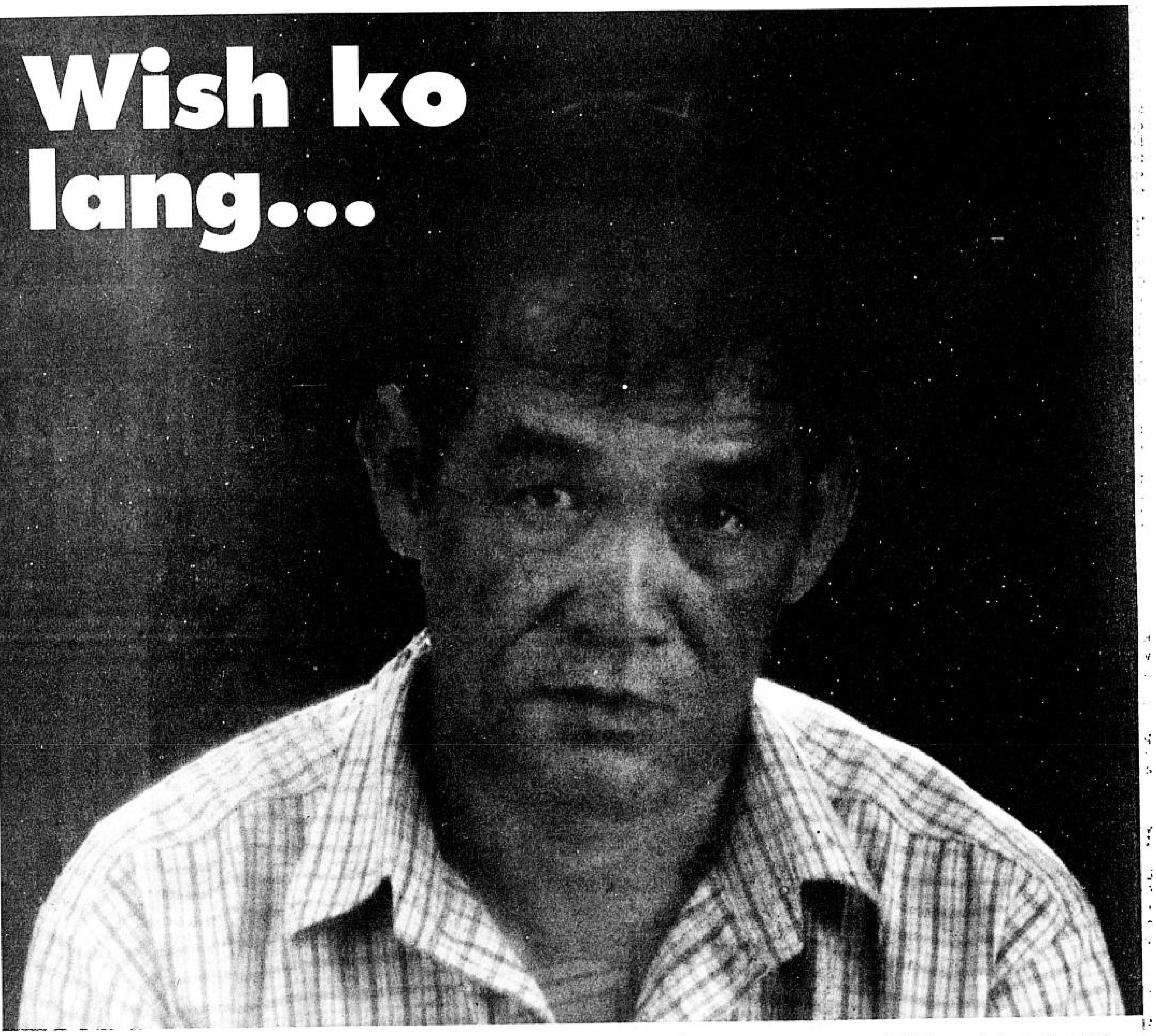
In Sorsogon City, tricycle drivers did not join the first day of strike.

Offices in far areas and classes in this city were suspended.

Rey Ballesteros, leader of Fastod Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association, said tricycle drivers wanted a rollback in gasoline prices while the jeepney drivers wanted a rollback in diesel prices.

There was an unconfirmed report that the tricycle drivers would join the second day of strike today.

Fernando Arevalo, president of Byaheng Sorsogon Quinlajon, said he thought that joining the strike was okay. "We have to sacrifice but it is for our own good." *Ronnie Lorejo with reports from Jericho Lagonoy and Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*


Wish ko lang...

"Na sa paglutas ng ating pambansang krisis sa pananalapi, sana'y manaig muli ang pagkakaisa na naging susi ng aking paglaya sa Iraq."

"Sa pagkakaligtas ko sa isang malupit na kapalaran, taos-pusong pasasalamat ang nais kong ipaabot. Sa mahabaging Diyos. Sa mga lider ng ating bansa. At sa lahat ng mga Pilipino na para sa aking kaligtasan ay buong pagkakaisang itinaas ang nagsusumamo nilang mga tinig hanggang sa pintuan ng langit.

Kay ganda ng ating ipinamalas sa buong mundo. Mayaman at dukha, Muslim at Kristiyano, rebelde't sundalo. Lahat sila'y nanalangin na ako'y masagip. Sana ay muli tayong magkaisa para malutas itong malubhang krisis sa pananalapi. Upang umunlad ang bayan at magwakas na ang pangingibang-bansa naming mga OFW."

ANGELO DELA CRUZ

Malambot at mapagmahal ang pusong Pinoy. Kaya nga't nadama ng buong sambayanan ang panaghoy ng isang amang nalagay sa panganib sa isang banyagang lupain. Isang amang nagtiis ng lungkot at lumbay. Nawalay sa kanyang mga mahal sa buhay. At nalayo sa mapagkalingang kandungan ng sariling bayan.

Muli nating patunayan kung gaano kahigpit ang pagkakabigkis ng ating mga puso't damdamin, ngayong nahaharap ang ating bansa sa isang matinding krisis sa pananalapi. Ito ang ating maitutulong:

- **Labanan ang pagnanakaw sa kabang-bayan**
- **Agad tayong magbayad ng tamang buwis**
- **Humingi ng resibo sa ating mga binibili.**
- **At suportahan ang mga panukalang batas para sa dagdag na kita ng pamahalaan.**

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Reb slain by troops under ex-NPA captive

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A suspected rebel was killed in a clash Sunday in Tubigon, Bohol with elements of the 1st Scout Ranger Battalion based in Carmen, Bohol under the command of former New People's Army captive Lt. Col. Noel Buan.

The Scout Ranger team was on a reconnaissance operation when it chanced upon some 20 armed men believed to be New People's Army (NPA) rebels in the boundaries of Sitio Macapan, Barangay Tan-awan and Sitio Kawasan, Barangay Ilijan Sur in Tubigon, Bohol shortly before 1 a.m. Sunday.

Mario Concha, 34, of Cabayugan, Calape died after the 45-minute gunfight that started at around midnight.

Central Command (Centcom) spokesperson Lt. Col. Jefferson Omandam said the manhunt operation continued until about 4 a.m. The suspected rebels were believed to belong to the Front 1 Central Visayas Regional Party Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA.

Omandam said the Scout Rangers also recovered an M-14 Armalite rifle and a binocular from the site.

M/Sgt. Narcisco Tabañag Jr. of the Civil Relations Group (CRG) of the AFP in Bohol, said Buan did not actually join in the operation as earlier reported. He said Lt. Magtanggol Panopio, team leader of the 2nd Scout Ranger Company of the 1st Scout Ranger, led the patrol.

Omandam said Buan's men were conducting a strike reconnaissance operation when they encountered a group of about 20 communist rebels.

"They simply scampered away to different directions after the encounter," Omandam said in mixed Cebuano and English.

DELFIN MALLARI/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

PRIMITIVE WAYS
A farmer in Lucban, Quezon resorts to drying *palay* on the road as the lack of machinery and equipment for *palay* drying continues to hound farmers in many areas in Quezon province.

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₱4.8M a year pay lures Davao nurses to US

DAVAO CITY—As a government nurse, Jess Salvacion, 33, used to get a take-home pay of barely P15,000 a month working for Mindanao's largest government hospital here.

Ten years into his job, he posted his resumé on the Internet and got calls from recruitment agencies worldwide, one of which was fast enough to process his legal papers to the United States.

So, in December this year, Salvacion is going out of the country to work as an operating room (OR) nurse in New York.

The pay? Only $46 an hour, or, the equivalent of P4.8 million a year.

Salvacion, who will leave behind a wife (who is also a nurse) and a six-year-old daughter to settle in his new workplace in the States before Christmas, is just a face among the thousand of nurses leaving the country each year to look for greener pastures abroad.

Last year alone, close to 250,000 Filipino nurses had left the country to relocate abroad, according to reports from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Choice destination

Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) data also showed that the United States—still one of the top three choice destinations for Filipino nurses abroad—has been attracting the most highly skilled and the best professionals, who are increasingly drawn out of the country each year in search of better life.

But Salvacion said nurses and other medical practitioners are hardly the one to blame for the continuing exodus.

"For us, it's just a matter of survival," said Salvacion, who left his work as head nurse at the Davao Medical Center (DMC)'s orthopedic department last year for a better-paying job as clinical instructor at the Davao Doctors' Hospital, and later, as quality officer of a paramedical school training US-bound nurses here.

He said nurses are leaving the country because the government could hardly pay them decent salaries.

"I think we'd be in a better position to help the country when we work abroad," he said, referring to the remittances of overseas Filipino workers estimated to have reached $8 billion last year, making up 10.8 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Skills shortage

He said there is a shortage of nurses and health care professionals here but the government does not have enough budget to give them better pay. This shortage is starkly felt in government hospital wards, where one or two nurses are stationed to take care of 40 to 60 patients. Ideally, a nurse should take care only of five patients, he said.

While government nurses usually get as much as P15,000 a month, nurses in private hospitals can get as low as P6,000 a month.

If they leave, nurses could get an average of P396,000 in Saudi Arabia to P2.8 million a year in the US, according to POEA data.

Salvacion said that his brief encounters with nurses in Ireland and South Korea in previous medical missions he had joined have convinced him that his training was at par with the world standards.

"We were never lagging behind, as far as our training is concerned," he said, "In fact, I am confident that our training has been one of the best in the world."

According to POEA, the US has been the traditional destination for Filipino nurses but other countries like Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Libya, Singapore and other countries in Europe and the Middle East are fast catching up.

But Salvacion said going out for a Filipino nurse is not always as easy. Even after three agencies had courted him on the basis of his resumé, his 10 years of actual experience in hospital wards, and a master's degree (on public administration), Salvacion had to pass a battery of tests to qualify as a nurse in the US. *Germelina Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ITAAS
P15/KILO PALAY
NG

EDWIN BACASMAS/PDI PHOTO

BEAST OF BURDEN
Farmers parade a carabao with their message painted on the animal's body at the Department of Agriculture office in Quezon City during a recent rally there to press for better treatment from the government.

Power co-op castigated for tax-driven rate hike

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The city council has castigated the management of an electric cooperative here for trying to pass on to consumers the burden of paying its past tax obligations amounting to P62 million with the city government.

During the city council's regular session last week, councilor Jose Mariano Gonzales criticized the management of the South Cotabato II Electric Cooperative (Socoteco II) for filing a petition at the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) asking for an increase in its power rates.

The Supreme Court earlier ruled Socoteco II is not exempted from paying real property taxes to the city government.

For years, the cooperative did not pay its real property obligations to the local government thinking that it was exempted.

To be able to pay its past accounts on real property taxes, the Socoteco II management submitted on May 13 a petition to the ERC asking for a new round of power rate increase.

Socoteco management said it could not pay its tax obligations if the city government would not allow it to pass on the burden to consumers.

A visibly irked Gonzales suggested that Socoteco II management adopt its own austerity measures by cutting down the perks and allowances of its officials and employees.

Passing on the burden to consumers, he said, was unfair.

Employees of Socoteco II are enjoying a 150-kilowatt-hour free electric consumption. This does not include rice, grocery and other allowances.

Members of the firm's board of directors are also receiving per diems and travel allowances every month.

The city council, which is strongly opposing Socoteco's plan to impose new power rate increases, has been conducting hearings to find a solution how the cooperative could settle pay taxes to the city government.

The city council has been asking the management of Socoteco II to submit a payment scheme. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Court says Ibalois can stay in park

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUBA, Benguet—A regional trial court in La Union dismissed a Philippine Tourism Authority petition to expel Ibalois from the Marcos Park, where the controversial Marcos bust stands.

This new setback derails PTA's plan to auction or lease its nonperforming assets by yearend, a PTA official said on Wednesday.

The Marcos Park, which is officially called the President's Park Complex in honor of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, is an idle PTA asset because almost all facilities in the park have been reclaimed by Ibaloi dwellers, the official said.

It was included in an inventory list of PTA assets, which the PTA board of directors approved for "divestment" in September when it directed PTA General Manager Robert Dean Barbers to prepare a lease development plan for these properties.

Freeze assets

The PTA asked Judge Samuel Martires to freeze the activities of the heirs of Samuel Kinomis, who have started fencing their claims and have planted banana trees there.

The agency sued the Kinomis family in 1997 when Rosalina Luz Labotan, a public schoolteacher, first entered the park.

"The complex has an 18-hole golf course and a clubhouse," which have been converted or are now occupied by the Ibalois, according to the PTA petition.

But the late Judge Nelsonida Marrero of the regional trial court in La Trinidad, Benguet, voided in April 2000 the deed of sale that transferred to PTA all of Kinomis' proprietary rights over lands straddling Tuba in Benguet and Sitio Palina in Pugo, La Union.

PTA elevated Marrero's decision before the Court of Appeals.

Martires cited Marrero's decision in junking PTA's petition in a seven-page decision.

Ownership issue

"Since the issue of ownership is now (a) pending resolution with the Court of Appeals, it is but proper that the injunction be applied (before) the appellate court which now has jurisdiction over the main case," he ruled.

Martires said "nothing in the petition shows that (PTA) is seeking to recover anything from (the Kinomis family)."

"What petitioner is simply asking is to prevent the (PTA) from doing something within the property. True, it is (PTA) had once introduced improvements on his property. However, those improvements have already been removed or demolished," he said in the decision.

"Basic is it in law that an injunction will not prevent the performance of a act already done," he said.

Labotan told the INQUIRER earlier that her Ibaloi parents were coerced into releasing their lands to the PTA towards the end of the 1970s.

Mayor's spouse arrested for extortion

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The husband of a town mayor in Cebu was arrested by National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents on Saturday for allegedly extorting P100,000 from operators of five fishing boats that were seized for allegedly illegally fishing in the waters of Madridejos, Cebu.

Rufino Mancio, husband of Madridejos Mayor Leticia Mancio, and his two companions were arrested by NBI agents from Negros Occidental at Mancio's resthouse in Barangay Talangnan, Madridejos, one of the three towns on Camotes Island in northern Cebu.

Also arrested were Jun Tonelete and Antonio Hinoguin, both political supporters of the Mancios.

The 15-man NBI-Bacolod team led by Eduardo Cawada said Mancio was arrested in an entrapment operation based on the complaint of fishing boat operators Mercedes Ramos and Judy Chua, both of Cadiz City, Negros Occidental.

The two operators said members of the Madridejos Bantay Dagat seized their five fishing vessels on Thursday while these were in open sea. They said that after seizing the vessels, Mancio allegedly demanded P100,000 from them so he would release the fishing boats.

Mancio has been appointed vice chair of the Madridejos Bantay Dagat by his mayor-wife. The same Bantay Dagat team is headed by the mayor's brother, Eddie Villacarlos.

The NBI Bacolod said they planned an entrapment operation against Mancio and his men. NBI agents posing as employees of CYC Fish Ventures, which is owned by Ramos, said Mancio and his two companions were waiting for them when they arrived at the Mancio resthouse at 7:30 a.m. on Oct. 23.

The NBI agents said Mancio immediately demanded the money from them. They said they arrested Mancio after he received the marked money from them.

While arresting Mancio, they said they saw several firearms and ammunition on top of a bed, which they also seized.

Lawyer Pedro Diaz, director of NBI-Bacolod, said the NBI would file extortion charges and illegal possession of firearm charges against Mancio and his companions.

Rufino, who was brought by the NBI agents to Bacolod following his arrest and was detained there, insisted in a cellular phone interview yesterday that there was no extortion.

Rufino said they apprehended the five fishing boats with almost 20 people on board for violating not just the town's ordinance but also the National Fisheries Act, which banned commercial fishing vessels within 15 km of municipal waters.

Rufino said all the owners of the five fishing boats have to pay almost P300,000 for the release of their fishing boats.

Gold rush area; folk want site turned to town

DAVAO CITY—Barangay officials of gold-rich Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley, are planning to turn their village into a separate town.

Francisco Tito, Mt. Diwata barangay chair, said the barangay council had already approved a resolution to this effect.

Tito said Mt. Diwata is qualified to be a town because it meets the necessary criteria required by the local government code.

He said a municipality shall have at least 5,000 hectares land area, 25,000 total population, and must be income-generating.

"Mt. Diwata has an 8,100-hectare land area, 40,000 population and is the top income generating barangay in Monkayo," he said.

Tito said turning their barangay into a municipality could make their place more progressive due to an increase in funding from the local and national governments.

He said they could also use more resources to serve their constituents.

But Tito said he is expecting political rival Monkayo mayor Manuel Brillantes to block the move of the barangay council.

He said he already received reports that Brillantes is not favorable to the idea.

Brillantes' elder brother Joel was the town's former mayor until he was shot dead in a cockpit arena in Davao City two years. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Toilet builders unearth treasure coins

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A jar containing about three gallons of old silver coins was found behind the Culion Elementary School in the municipality of Culion, a northern Palawan town.

Culion Mayor Emiliano Marasigan Jr. yesterday confirmed to the INQUIRER the presence of the treasure, which was found last Oct. 10 by some teachers and parents of the students who volunteered to perform manual labor to help construct toilets for the school.

After the "tibur," a local name for jar, was found, the teachers continued digging and found some adobe slabs. Marasigan did not personally see the coins because when he came to know of the digging, the treasures were already kept or sold to different buyers.

SPO2 Florencio Hernandez, however, confirmed that most coins kept inside the jar were dated 1889 and engraved with Spanish King Carlos' name.

Sample coin

He said he was handed a piece of coin by one parent.

The coins were sold at P150, P200, or as high as P1,000 per piece depending on the denomination and the age of the coin.

The school and Barangay Osmeña officials where the jar was found agreed to dig for more but Mayor Marasigan ordered it stopped five days ago.

The site is now being guarded by village watchmen and some policemen.

Marasigan had already informed the National Museum about the discovery and he said they are expecting that some staffers of the museum will arrive at the site anytime this week.

According to him, this is not the first time treasures were found on his island.

Other treasures

Years ago, there were old jars and porcelain found in different sites in Culion, which is part of the Calamianes group of Islands.

In the 1600s, Calamianes became the foothold for Spanish colonization of southern Luzon and Palawan.

When the Americans came, Culion was converted into a leper colony. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 more Mindanao projects listed as GMA priority

DAVAO CITY—Two more Mindanao road projects made it to the list of President Macapagal-Arroyo's priority projects.

Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza identified the two road projects as the Zamboanga peninsula coastal road network that would connect Zamboanga del Norte's town of Liloy with Zamboanga City, and the proposed Lake Lanao Circumferential Road.

Dureza said the inclusion of the two projects in the list was vigorously pursued by the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo) because these would enhance the transport of goods to various parts of Mindanao.

The 240-km Zamboanga peninsula coastal road network would also connect Liloy with Labason, Gutalac, Baliguian, Siocon, Sirawai, Sibuco and Limpapa towns.

"Let's just look for some money in order to pursue this road project," Dureza quoted the President as saying.

Dureza said the coastal road project would ease the burden of traders in transporting agricultural and marine products to other areas of the Zamboanga region.

Currently, traders resort to sea travel to move their goods there.

Dureza said the Lake Lanao Circumferential Road was in the pipeline under the Mindanao Roads Improvement Project (MRIP) Phase 1, which is being funded by the Saudi government.

"The inclusion of these two major road projects in the new economic roadmap clearly manifests President Arroyo's strong resolve to realize peace and development in Mindanao via physical integration," he said. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Sanitary engineer's seal needed in water for drinking

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Before you buy or drink your water, bottled or from a piped source, check out first if the supplier has the seal of a professional sanitary engineer (PSE).

If there is none, chances are the facilities have not been designed for or have not passed health, sanitation and environmental standards—tasks that PSEs are bound by law to do.

The Professional Regulation Commission's Board of Sanitary Engineering upheld the regulatory functions of PSEs over government agencies, waterworks, bottled water and refilling stations, tankers, analysis laboratories and similar establishments.

Copies of the board's Resolution No. 2, made effective on Aug. 25, is being distributed to local governments, most of which, especially those at the municipal and city levels, do not have PSEs.

The resolution shed light on the issue of compliance by water companies.

It was the Philippine Association of Certified Water Operators that sought the clarification through a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Philippine Society of Sanitary Engineers in January 2003.

The PSSE said in 1999 and 2000, "more than one-third of the water refilling stations were bacterioliogically contaminated or have not complied with the other parameters as mandated by the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water."

"Water purification plants, particularly bottled water companies and water refilling stations that were victims of unscrupulous individuals, groups, associations or organizations, franchisers and the likes in collusion with some government employees are now operating outside of the professional practice law, thereby endangering public health and safety," the PSSE said in a paper.

It was referring to Republic Act 1364, which authorizes registered sanitary engineers to design water collection and distribution systems, reservoirs, drainage, sewage disposal tanks, among other tasks.

In Pampanga, the provincial health office said only a few of the more than 200 refilling stations and seven water districts were checked by PSEs.

The board, through the resolution, ordered government agencies and local governments not to allow building and health officers to approve or issue permits for water collection, distribution, purification, treatment and tests. All these shall be done by or under the supervision of PSEs.

"All firms whose line of business deals with the manufacture, sale, supply or distribution of any materials, devices, gadgets and equipment used in the collection, distribution, purification and storage of water shall hire a PSE. . . ," the resolution said.

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3 Basilan informers each get P18.7M

From page A1

The three had provided information that led government troops to Hamsiraji Sali, also known as Jose Ramirez, who was later killed in a firefight in Basilan on April 8 this year, the US Embassy said in a statement.

Sali was a leader of the Abu Sayyaf, a Moro armed group which gained notoriety years ago for seizing mostly foreign tourists in exchange for millions of dollars in ransom and for executing some of their hostages, including an American.

Sali was the second senior ASG member on the US wanted list to be killed. The other three, including leader Khaddafy Janjalani, remain at large.

The Abu Sayyaf had been linked by both Washington and Manila to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

The gang, together with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army, had been placed on the US watchlist of foreign terrorist organizations for posing a threat to Americans.

Mussomeli voiced the hope that the reward would encourage others "to make a similar commitment to step forward and bring to justice" Khadaffy Janjalani, Abu Solaiman, Isnilon Hapilon and other "known terrorists ... so we can end forever the depredations of the ASG and other terrorist organizations."

"This is the first, but we hope not the last reward paid in the Philippines under the Rewards for Justice Program. Because the simple truth is that governments alone can never completely destroy the terrorists," he said in a statement.

"To eradicate this disease once and for all, the support, courage and strength of the people are essential."

Mussomeli said the money was part of the US Department of State's Rewards for Justice Program, which was designed to encourage people to provide information "that will lead to the arrest and conviction of terrorists worldwide."

Also present at the ceremony were Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis, Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco and Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga of the military's Southern Command, among others.

Mussomeli noted that since the situation in Basilan had stabilized, some international and national aid agencies, including the US Agency for International Development (USAID), had come in to implement development projects.

He said, for instance, that in the past three years, USAID had expanded its range of activities in the island to include infrastructure and educational projects.

"As I look around me, I see the fruits of peace. A peace built by the everyday courage of the people of this island, with assistance from our two governments," he said.

In April, Mussomeli handed over a reward of about P840,000 to a masked informant who had given information leading to the capture of Alhamser Limbong, alias Commander Kosovo, who had beheaded one of two Americans.

The Rewards for Justice Program provides payments to those who help in the capture or killing of certain suspected terrorists. A reward of $25 million is being offered under this program for the capture of Bin Laden.

With AP, AFP and Reuters

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MS PARAGUAY Yanina Gonzales bags award for best in swimsuit. JOSEPH AGCAOILI

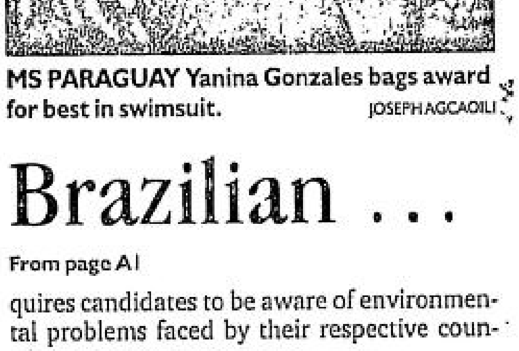
Brazilian ...

From page A1

quires candidates to be aware of environmental problems faced by their respective countries.

During 3 1/2 weeks in the Philippines, contestants helped clean a beach of trash, did farm work, planted mahogany trees, biked to promote clean air and released schools of fish into a reservoir in the north, organizers said.

Among the 11 judges was Vida Samadzai, last year's contestant from Afghanistan who was condemned in her conservative homeland for appearing in a bikini. There was no Afghan competitor this year. *AP*



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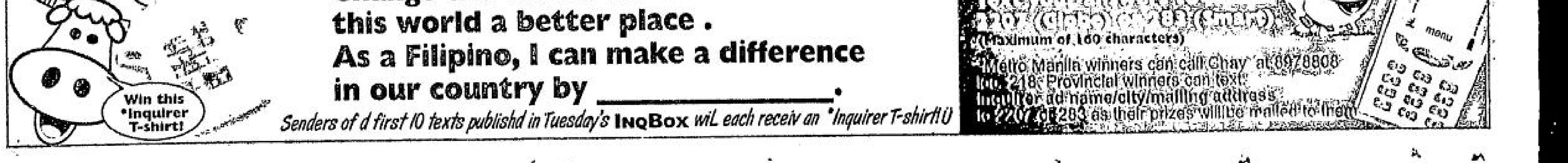

Question of the Week

Change the world. We can make this world a better place.
As a Filipino, I can make a difference in our country by ____________.

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Metro Manila winners can call Chay at 8978808 loc. 218. Provincial winners can text: Inquirer ad name/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

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Top cop says 'Partisano' exists

By Christian V. Esguerra

A TOP police investigator yesterday confirmed the existence of "Partisano," an obscure leftist group that had admitted killing Manila police Supt. Manolo Martinez, reportedly the nemesis of left-leaning protesters in the city.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza said Partisano is the armed wing of the Partidong Marxista at Leninista ng Pilipinas, a group that traces its roots to the breakaway Manila-Rizal party committee of the late Felimon "Ka Popoy" Lagman.

"It's existing, it's operational, it even participates in rallies through legal organizations," he told reporters in a press conference yesterday.

Partisano is composed of former members of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, formerly the communist mainstream's urban hit squad, according to Mendoza who has built a solid career in intelligence work by going after communist insurgents.

Mendoza said the Partisano had been implicated in a number of liquidation operations in the manner of the Martinez killing. The group purportedly admitted the killing by leaving a flyer bearing its name at the crime scene, the compound of the Western Police District's Station 8 where Martinez was commander.

But Mendoza said the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the Crame-based unit assisting the WPD, was not immediately buying the story.

"In criminal investigation, mere admission cannot stand in court," he explained. "It has to be backed by solid evidence."

Another persistent angle in the Martinez murder was that he had been killed by fellow officers at the Philippine National Police. Mendoza said he had heard of this theory but said it was anything but plausible, so far.

In pursuing the other angle—that the murder was a result of the colonel's long-running conflict with left-leaning protest groups—Mendoza said the public should not be misled by the manner of killing.

Just because Martinez was killed with an M-16 rifle—a deviation from leftist hit squads' standard use of pistols—does not mean groups like Partisano were already out of the picture, according to the official.

"We should understand that the modus operandi differs depending on the target," he said.

"If the person is a hard target like Martinez it's advisable to use high-powered firearms; if he's a soft target and the gun man can come close, a short firearm will suffice," he added.

In Martinez' case, Mendoza said the killing was "bold," an attack fit for a "security-conscious" target like the policeman. Investigators had arrested June Felizardo and a 15-year-old boy in connection with killing, but only Felizardo had been charged. The other suspect was released for lack of evidence.

A princess with a heart for poor kids

VISITING Princess Caroline of Monaco carries a street child, one of hundreds who welcomed her yesterday at the Makati Coliseum. CHECHE MORAL

By Tarra V. Quismundo, Margaux Ortiz and Cheche Moral

ROYALTY came to town yesterday, but instead of attending glitzy functions, the visitor chose to mingle with poor children in the cities of Manila and Makati.

Wearing a wide smile, Princess Caroline of Monaco carried babies and toddlers, and mingled with young adults at Manila's Reception and Action Center, a haven for the homeless, and the Manila Youth Rehabilitation Center.

The Princess spent time with about 400 minors and young adults in the two facilities, which gets funding from Virlanie Foundation Inc., a non-government organization that gives shelter to street kids, single mothers and minors involved in crime or victims of abuse. The foundation, which supports similar facilities in other Metro Manila cities, gets support from Amade Philippines, an affiliate of Amade Mondiale in Monaco.

Princess Caroline, 47, the daughter of Prince Rainier and Princess Grace (Kelly, a former Hollywood star), is now president of Amade Mondiale, a Monaco-based NGO that helps the less fortunate worldwide. Dominique Lemay, founder of Virlanie Foundation, was beside Princess Caroline as she went around the two shelters.

The princess also visited the Makati Coliseum where hundreds of street children turned up to meet their benefactor.

"She was very kind and compassionate. She checked the facilities to see if there was anything more she could do," said Jose Baranda, head of the Manila Social Welfare Department which oversees the two facilities on Antonio Villegas Street in Ermita, Manila.

In place of a red carpet welcome, the children greeted Princess Caroline with a hearty "mabuhay," songs and traditional Filipino dances. She was also presented mementos, including bracelets made by the children.

Lemay later said the princess was touched by the children's plight. "She was very touched, and she felt the situation was terrible," he added. "She said it's not normal to put 40 children in a 30-square meter room. She was very emotional."

At the Makati Coliseum, the children broke into a welcome song as she entered. The smiling Princess took her seat at the center of the coliseum, where she chatted with street children beside her. Virlanie's wards included children with disabilities who performed song and dance numbers for Princess Caroline. The Princess wiped tears from her eyes when a group of unwed and pregnant girls sang "The Greatest Gift of All" with their babies.

Lemay said Princess Caroline was "very touched" with what she saw in her tour of Virlanie's facilities. "We're the biggest foundation in the Philippines but they don't know us," lamented Lemay. "I told the princess, maybe they will listen to you. She's very responsive to proposals for betterment. Her presence will bring focus to the plight of the children."

General Garcia no different from solons

THERE is no love lost between Sen. Panfilo Lacson and this writer, but I certainly agree with him when he said that beleaguered Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia was no different from some lawmakers who get commission from their pork barrel.

"I don't think the congressmen realize that what they are investigating is Carlos Garcia's version of their own pork barrel," Lacson said after a long publicity silence.

His comment was in reaction to the House inquiry into Garcia's unexplained wealth.

The senator from Cavite is on a high moral ground as far as pork barrel is concerned. He announces with a flourish that he doesn't touch his share of the Countryside Development Fund (CDF), a major source of graft among lawmakers.

"Assuming the allegations against Garcia are true—that he took commissions from suppliers—what is the difference between a general receiving commissions from suppliers and contractors? It's the same banana," Lacson said.

Lacson is right. Many congressmen and senators earn huge commissions from suppliers or contractors on the cost of CDF projects. The commission runs to 20 percent of the project cost.

One former lawmaker was able to build a mansion in Tagaytay City and a big house in the United States from his pork barrel funds.

It would do well for the congressmen investigating Garcia on his hidden wealth to stop their charade and leave it to the Ombudsman and the court martial to take custody of his case.

They're making laughingstocks of themselves. As they're pointing an accusing finger at Garcia, three of their fingers are pointing at themselves.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

***

Conversion, the act of obtaining cash from outside sources chargeable against the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) has become a bad word.

Actually, conversion is practiced by almost all government offices. It has been a long-standing practice.

When the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) issues a SARO, it does so without the corresponding cash. The SARO, in effect, is a pledge from the DBM that such and such an amount has been set aside for a government unit's budget for, say, office supplies or gasoline, and that cash is forthcoming.

My sources say the cash on the SARO arrives in the second quarter of the fiscal year. Meanwhile, the government unit will have to scrounge around for cash to spend on a day-to-day basis.

The chief of office asks his comptroller to obtain cash from outside sources. Among them are lenders and suppliers of items for that particular agency.

The lender or supplier extends a loan to the government agency. Interest ranges from 25 to 30 percent of the amount borrowed.

If the amount borrowed is, say, P100,000, the lender gives P75,000 cash to the government agency. The agency, in turn, pays the lender the P100,000 when the cash from the SARO arrives.

The comptroller and the office chief earn commissions from the 25 percent interest paid to the lender or supplier.

Multiply 25 percent by the hundreds of millions of pesos in SARO and you get the whole picture.

No government agency is "clean" when it comes to the conversion of paper budget into cash. It's a necessary evil.

It can only be eliminated if the DBM sends cash instead of SARO to all government units.

Book author nabbed for libel

POLICE in Cauayan, Isabela arrested a Quezon City-based book author last week in connection with a libel case filed by television talk show host Raffy Tulfo, but was immediately freed on a P10,000 bail.

Supt. Delfin Millo, Cauayan police director, said four policemen served the warrant on Nanerico "Ning" Santos, 68, at his house in La Loma, Quezon City, on Oct. 22.

Tulfo, a brother of media personalities Ramon, Erwin and Ben Tulfo, filed a libel case against Santos in June this year. Tulfo's wife, a native of Cauayan City, is a sister of the wife of Luna (Isabela) Mayor Manuel Tio.

The case stemmed from Santos' statements in his book, "Liars, Intimidators and Extortionists in Philippine Media," that Raffy Tulfo was "Satan's son."

Santos also described Ramon the TV host as an alleged "extortionist."

In a telephone interview, Santos claimed that Raffy Tulfo was behind his arrest.

"The arrest warrant for a case of libel filed in Cauayan City could be the work of the local police," he said.

"Why would four policemen, based more than 500 kilometers away, travel for over 10 hours and another 10 hours back just to serve a simple warrant of arrest?" Santos asked.

He said Tulfo talked to the policemen on a mobile phone a few minutes after they arrived at a Quezon City police station. Tulfo, he claimed, demanded that he (Santos) be taken to Cauayan City.

Citing Tulfo's ties with a political family in Isabela, Santos challenged Tulfo to file the case in Metro Manila "to level the playing field.

"If the Tulfo brothers are really brave, why don't they confront me in any Metro Manila court so there is a level playing field, and not in Cauayan City, where they have the upper hand because of Tulfo's wife who belongs to a powerful political clan there?" Santos said.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Embattled . . .

From page A20

The new managers would be paying the school P20,000 every month, which Blas had said was better for the school that had received P4,000 a month from the cooperative when they were running the facility.

But the teachers claimed that Blas approved the contract even while there was still a standing memorandum of agreement with the school administration. The school division, however, found that the MOA was no longer in effect, as "the cooperative voluntarily relinquished the operation of the canteen." However, the body said that Blas should have been transparent in forging the new deal.

"It would not harm her if she keeps the lines of communication open between her and the rest of the school populace. This would have eschewed the misunderstanding generated by the contract with Mrs. Pineda," it added.

While the privatization was legal, the division suggested that the other parties seek further comments from the education department.

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SUERTRES 7 7 9

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(In exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45 4 5 14 15 35 45

Embattled principal moves to new school

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE CONTROVERSY about the privatization of the Lakandula High School canteen in Tondo, Manila, refuses to die down despite the transfer to another school of the school's principal, Alice Blas

The Division of City Schools of Manila had affirmed the legality of a new contract allowing the takeover of the canteen management, but the teachers, students and their parents who had sought Blas' ouster for approving the deal said yesterday that they were not ready to give up.

Blas has been reassigned to Nolasco High School, a public high school also in Tondo. She worked for five years as principal of Lakandula.

"I wanted to move to another school because my relationship with the teachers had worsened and the students are caught in the middle. But my fight against them will continue," said Blas.

The teachers vowed to continue their protests against private concessionaire Michelle Pineda who had taken control of the school canteen, alleging that the new contract was anomalous.

The principal had filed criminal charges of libel, oral defamation, sedition, illegal assembly, unjust vexation, and alarm and scandal against Lakandula teachers who had organized the protest against her. The teachers are also facing charges of insubordination, grave misconduct, and discourtesy to a superior at the Civil Service Commission.

Unfazed, the teachers added that they would boycott canteen services.

In a two-page comment released yesterday, the school division said it found nothing wrong in the contract entered into between Blas and private contractors that would manage the canteen.

The teachers had filed a complaint before the school division asking that the contract be declared illegal, claiming that Blas had put aside the teacher's cooperative in privatizing the canteen. The cooperative used to manage the canteen.

"Plainly, the complainants have not shown that Dr. Blas has violated any rule. On the contrary, it appears that the lease is more favorable to the school," said the comment, signed by Isabelita Santos, assistant division superintendent handling affairs of secondary schools, and Vicente Macarubbo, administrative officer V.

EMBATTLED/ A0

Meter testing resumes Nov. 4

By Clarissa s. Batino

THE LAND Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board has extended the calibration of cab meters until after the All Saints Day break, according to LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista.

She said meter calibration, testing and sealing would stop temporarily tomorrow, but would resume on Nov. 4.

The LTFRB wants to complete the calibration of the 42,000 registered taxis as soon as possible. "As of 12 noon (yesterday), only 16,135 out of the 42,000 have paid the fees," said Bautista.

She said the agency was targeting the calibration of the meters of 500 cabs on every calibration site each day. Operators have to pay the fees before the LTFRB can calibrate the meter.

The LTFRB opened three new calibration sites over the weekend. One is near the Aseana Business Park on Diosdado Macapagal Avenue, another is at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and the third at Fort Bonifacio.

Its head office is open daily for the assessment and payment of fees for the new taxi fare increase.

To put some order in the process, the LTFRB assigned taxi operators to specific calibration sites depending on their surnames.

Surnames starting from letters A to C should go to Fort Bonifacio. Those with surnames starting from D to M should go to Diosdado Macapagal Avenue, and those from N to Z should proceed to the CCP.

For the meantime, Bautista said taxi drivers could still pick up passengers even if their meters had not yet been calibrated. But they would have to charge the old rate of P25 for flag down covering the first 500 meters.

"If they overcharge customers, the driver and the operator must pay a fine of P500 each," said Bautista. But drivers and cab operators who have illegally adjusted their meters to reflect new P30 flag down rate would be slapped a fine of P2,500 each. Commuters can report errant cab drivers to the LTFRB's hotlines at 0921-4487777 or 925-7191.

Taxi drivers whose meters have been calibrated, tested and sealed may now charge passengers a flag down of P30, P2.50 for every succeeding 300 meters, and P2.50 for every two minutes of waiting time.

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Franz Ferdinand

Franz Ferdinand Songs	Keyword	Keyword
Take Me Out	TONE TAKEMEOUT	POLY TAKEMEOUT
Jacqueline	TONE JACQUELINE	POLY JACQUELINE
Tell Her Tonight	TONE TELLHER	POLY TELLHER
Cheating On You	TONE CHEATING	POLY CHEATING
Darts Of Pleasure	TONE DARTSOF	POLY DARTSOF
New mono tones		
Jesus Walks	*Kanye West*	TONE JESUSWALKS
Rollover DJ	*Jet*	TONE ROLLOVERDJ
Masaya	*Bamboo*	TONE MASAYA
In or Out	*Sandara Park*	TONE INOUT
Right Here Right Now	*Fatboy Slim*	TONE RYTHERE
Miami Vice	*TV Theme*	TONE MIAMIVICE
Knight Rider	*TV Theme*	TONE KNIGHTRDR
New poly tones		
Word Up	*Korn*	POLY WORDUP
Here In My Room	*Incubus*	POLY INMYROOM
Sige	*6 Cycle Mind*	POLY SIGE
Gangster Tripping	*Fatboy Slim*	POLY GANGSTER
Never Ever	*All Saints*	POLY NEVEREVER
Love Song For No One	*John Mayer*	POLY SONG4NO1
F*ck It (I Don't Want You Back)	*Eamon*	POLY FCKIT
Build Me Up, Buttercup	*The Foundations*	POLY BUTTERCUP
Don't Call Me Baby	*Madison Avenue*	POLY CALLMEBABY
Eternal Flame	*Bangles*	POLY ETERNAL

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PIC BEERPA3
PIC ROSES1
PIC HELLO12
PIC KISS1
PIC GANDAKO1
PIC KISSME11
PIC LONGING1
PIC LUVU6
PIC MISSMY
PIC GUDNITE1
PIC COOLME
PIC LUVBALL
PIC HATE1
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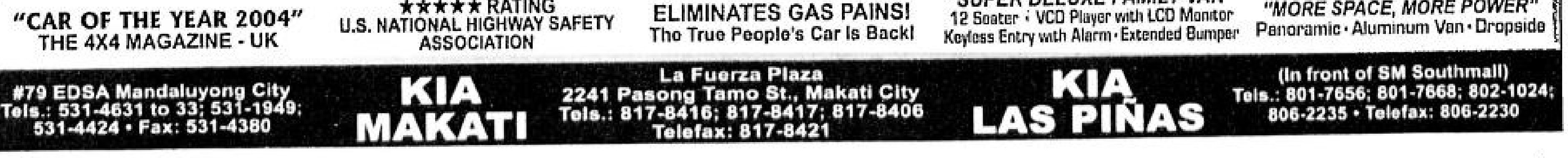

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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: NBA Pre-Season Games-Celtics vs Cavs; 7:30 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Gary Payton leads Boston against LeBron James and his teammates in Cleveland in this warm-up for the regular season.

BILLIARDS: Fil 9-Ball Open; 2 p.m.; Solar Sports—It's Day Two of this prestigious billiards event.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2004
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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■ Paragua averts RP shutout versus Azerbaijan /A23

■ Montoya tops Brazil GP /A24

■ Stitched-up Schilling keys Red Sox victory /A24

Django bags World Pool League title

Nips Pagulayan in stirring final

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante broke out of a long winless spell to bag his first World Pool League title Sunday, downing Alex Pagulayan, 8-7, in a dramatic all-Filipino final of the tournament in Warsaw, Poland, among six of the world's top pool players.

Bustamante won the $20,000 top prize of the lucrative tournament that also lured last year's winner, Rodney Morris of the United States, Steve Davis of England, current European 9-ball champion Thomas Engert of Germany and world pool star Niels Feijen of Holland.

"*Matagal kong hinintay ito* (I waited long for this)," said Bustamante after beating Pagulayan, a Canadian who was granted Filipino citizenship this year, in front of an enthralled audience at the N.O.T Building in central Warsaw.

Bustamante ended a 9-month winless spell after topping the 14th Kansai 9-Ball Open in Tokyo.

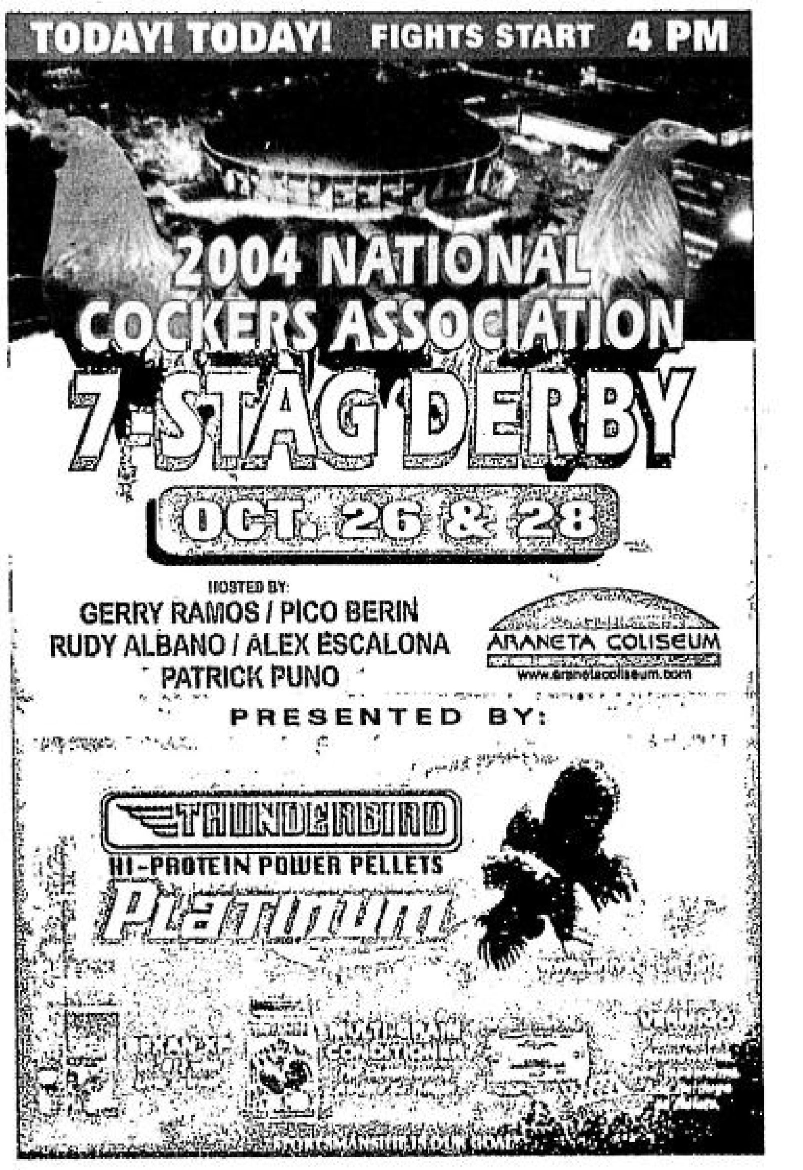
The match was nip and tuck from the start, with each player unable to decisively pull away. In the end, however, it was Bustamante, a protégé of Puyat Sports headed by Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, who held his nerve to prevail.

Bustamante advanced to the winner-take-all final by drawing his matches with Pagulayan and Engert over 10 racks.

The native of Tarlac City led Engert, 4-2, but the German winner of the 2004 International Challenge took the next two racks to pull even.

Playing impressively in the early rounds, the Filipino trounced Morris and then Davis by the same 6-4 scores. *Marlon Bernardino*

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante takes a tricky shot in this file photo. He pocketed $20,000 for putting away his first WPL crown. PDI PHOTO



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PBA IN BACOLOD

Skidding SLR seeks ice-breaker

STA. LUCIA resumes its chase for an elusive first win, colliding with a suddenly struggling Red Bull squad today as the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup goes to the University of St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod.

Bringing up the rear of the 10-team pack, the Realtors are favored to end a four-game losing streak in their 6 p.m. clash with the Barakos, now shorthanded with the suspension of key frontliners Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi and relief guard Jon Ordonio.

STANDINGS	W	L
TNT	5	0
Shell	4	1
Purefoods	3	2
Coke	3	2
SMB	3	3
FedEx	2	2
Ginebra	2	3
Red Bull	1	3
Alaska	1	4
SLR	0	4

GAME TODAY
(*USLS Gym, Bacolod*)
6 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Red Bull

Both squads will be coming off losses, with the Realtors bowing to Purefoods, 87-89, and Red Bull to Alaska, 71-79. The loss to Alaska was the first game that the Barakos played without Harp and Pennisi, who were suspended along with Ordonio and three others for falsifying their claims to Filipino citizenship.

And it could just be the break the Realtors are waiting for after opening the tournament with one of the worst records in franchise history despite a lineup that is as formidable as the others on paper.

The Realtors' all-time worst start came just months ago during the transition Fiesta Conference, when they lost their first five games and did not figure in the title chase.

DONDON Hontiveros of San Miguel Beer (left) scrambles for the loose ball with Eugene Tejada of Alaska during their game Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. The Beermen won, 75-76. JESS YUSON

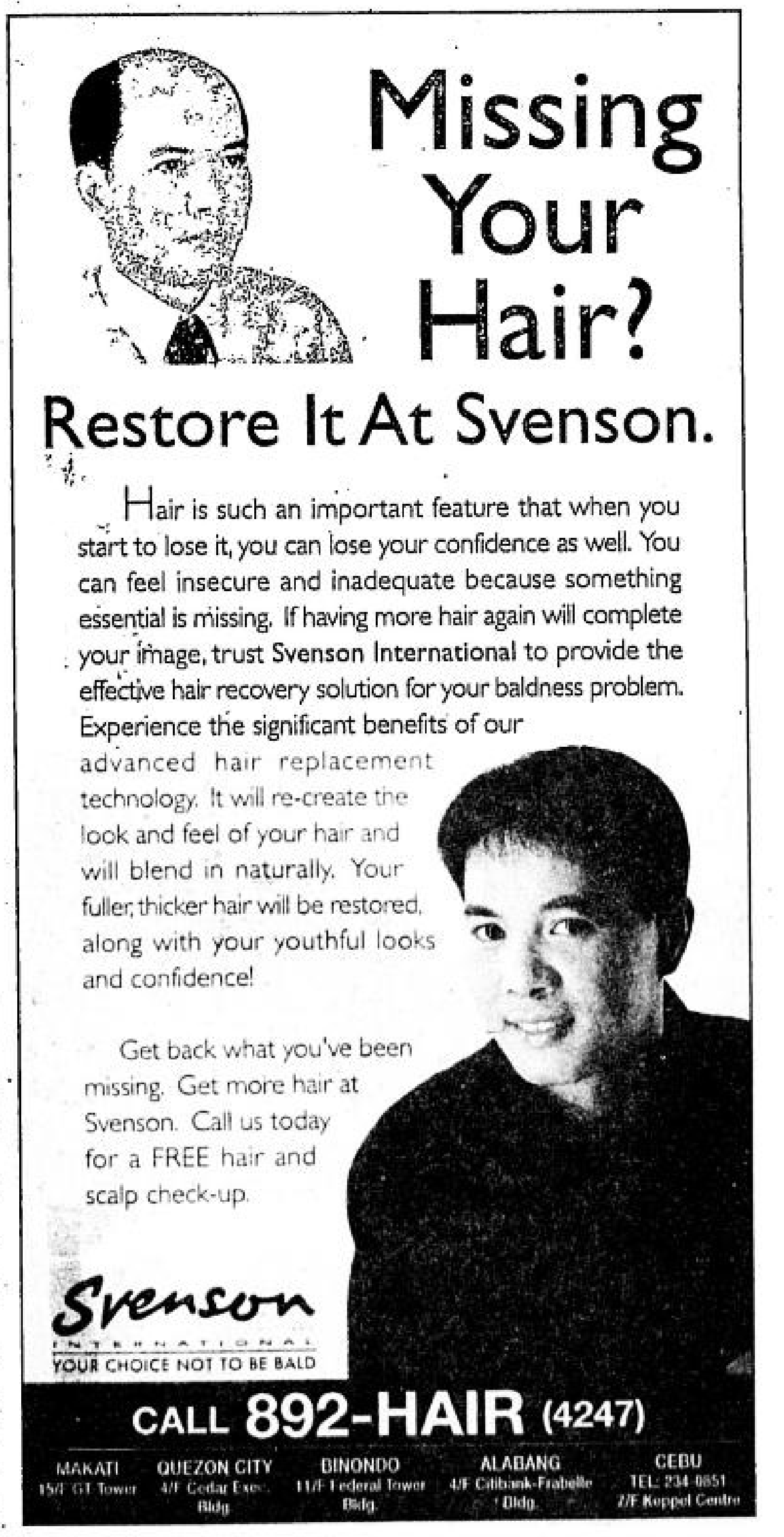
Kenneth Duremdes will be coming off a sparkling 37-point effort against the Tender Juicy Hotdogs, but the same could not be said of the rest of the team that has not shown cohesion on the court.

Marlou Aquino was a big letdown in the stretch against Purefoods as Jun Limpot got the better of him twice inside the paint.

After driving past Aquino to score the Hotdogs' go-ahead basket, Limpot blocked a potential game-tying shot by the 6-foot-9 behemoth that sealed the Realtors' fourth straight loss.

Talk 'N Text continues to lead with a 5-0 slate with Shell in second with a 4-1 card.

Sta. Lucia and Red Bull are actually two of four fancied teams that are occupying the bottom half of the standings together with reigning Fiesta Conference champ Barangay Ginebra and the Aces. *June Navarro*



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WINNING FORM
Model Gem Padilla of The Zone hits a smash during the Central area eliminations of the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Platinum Cup at the Yonex courts in Mandaluyong City over the weekend. Padilla and her teammates upset Manila Polo Club in the finals to clinch the area title. The Zone and MPC earned tickets to the national finals on Nov. 20-21. RUDY ESPERAS

RP-Cebuana five triumphs

Pinoys overwhelm Indons for Malaysia cage crown

A COHESIVE RP-Cebuana Lhuillier squad whipped Indonesia, 81-58, Saturday night to rule the Negeri Sembilan Invitational basketball championship in Malaysia.

Veteran Ricky Calimag top-scored for the Filipinos with 20 points, with new recruits Jeff Bombeo and Nino Canaleta chipping in with 17 and 14, respectively.

Coached by Dong Vergeire, the team that has embarked on a long-term program that started last year finally reaped the first fruit of its labors despite coming off a so-so stint in the Jones Cup in Taiwan.

Team owner Jean Henri Lhuillier praised the team for its efforts.

"The boys ran their plays as they practiced in Manila," Lhuillier said.

Exploiting their height advantage, the Filipinos routed Singapore, 71-52, in the semifinals Friday night to set up the title showdown with the Indons.

MEMBERS of the Philippine-Cebuana Lhuillier quintet show off their medals and trophy after their unbeaten title romp. The Filipinos became the tournament favorite when they beat host Malaysia right in their first game.

Archers, Eagles get going in PBL today

COLLEGIATE titans with contrasting off-season fortunes bring their acts to a higher stage today as Addict Mobile-Ateneo and ICTSI-La Salle tackle separate foes in the PBL Open Championship at the Pasig Sports Center.

After shunning outside reinforcements, ICTSI-La Salle sends its UAAP champion squad against newcomer Granny Goose Tortillos at 4 p.m.

The Eagles, on the other hand, acquired, among others, NCAA MVP and top rookie Gabby Espinas from Philippine Christian in a bold pre-season move that made them instant favorites against Air Philippines at 2 p.m.

GAMES TODAY (*Pasig Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—Addict Mobile-Ateneo vs Air Philippines
4 p.m.—Granny Goose vs ICTSI-La Salle

ICTSI-La Salle stayed with the lineup that won the UAAP over Far Eastern University recently and the Archers go into the tournament as the smallest and the youngest in the league.

"Our purpose in joining the PBL is to help the La Salle team (in the long term). If we get players outside and then pull them out during the UAAP season, it will be different. It's a long-term preparation for the team," said Gee Abanilla, ICTSI-La Salle's interim coach while Franz Pumaren is on leave.

"We're also the youngest team in the league. Our players are between 18 to 23 years old. We hope to learn a lot and it will be a bonus if we do well. But we will give them a good fight. Our team is in good condition," added Abanilla.

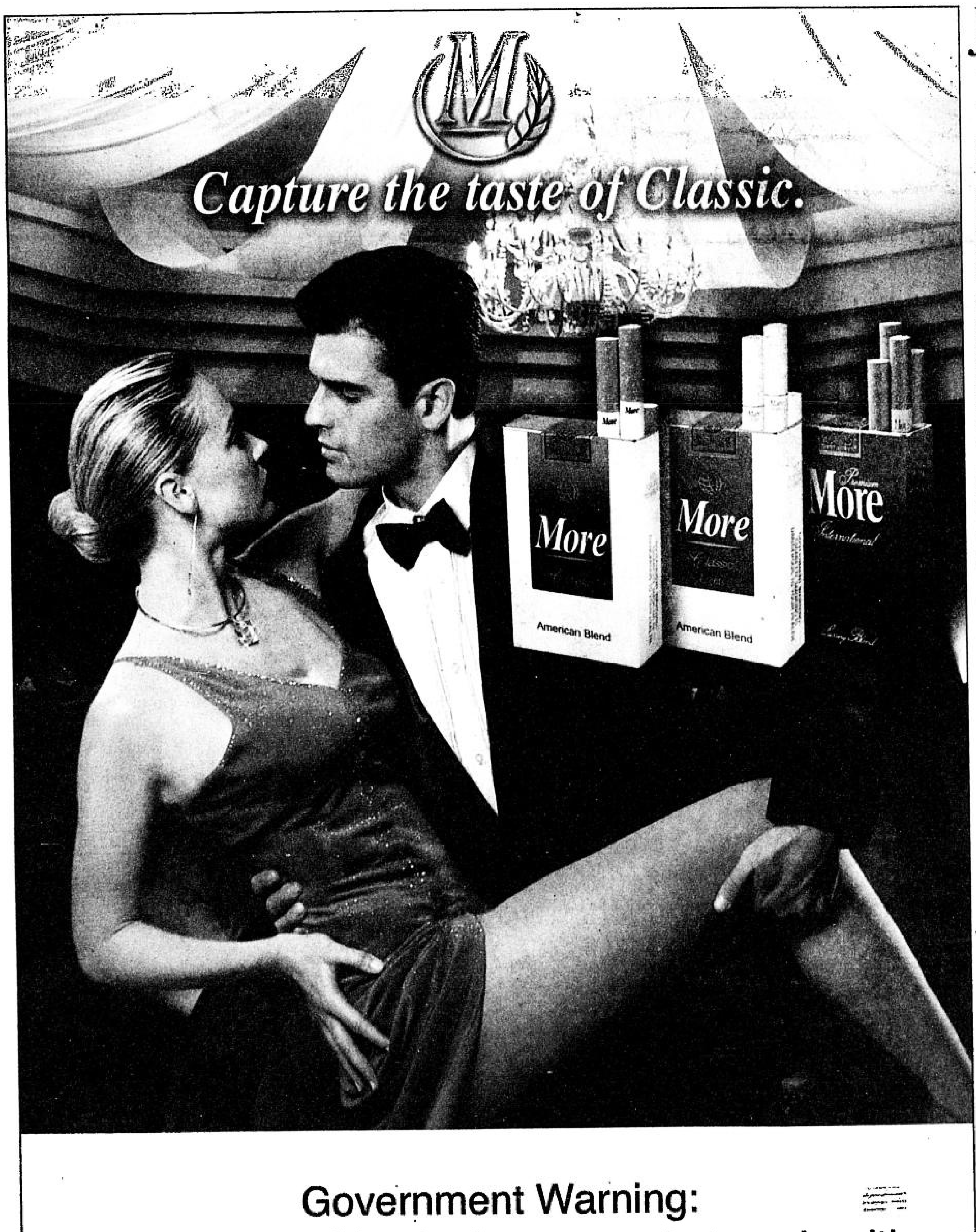
Granny Goose will be led by the much-heralded Ronald Joseph Quiñahan, a 6-foot-6 center from the University of the Visayas. The Cebu-based team will also rely on UP standouts Toti Almeda, Abby Santos, Nestor David and Marvin Cruz.

Former MBA cagers Nani Epondulan and Alvin Pua, and top collegiate players like Jemal Vizcarra of UST, Paolo Hubalde of University of the East, Jerome Paterno of San Beda and Wynsjohn Te of Jose Rizal banner Air Philippines.

The all-La Salle squad will be led by UAAP Finals MVP Mac Cardona, Joseph Yeo, Jun Cabatu and TY Tang. Archers JV Casio, Jerwin Gaco and Mark Benitez will also mark their PBL debut today.

Addict Mobile-Ateneo, beefed up by players from NCAA champion Philippine Christian U Dolphins led by MVP and Rookie of the Year Gabby Espinas, will battle a new team, Air Philippines Flight, at 2 p.m.

Jasmine W. Payo



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Jewellers 1st to URBL semifinals

SANTO Domingo, Ilocos Sur—Bong Marata completed a three-point play in the final two seconds yesterday as M. Lhuillier-Cebu nipped host Ilocos Sur, 85-83, to barge into the semis of the United Regional Basketball League at the Santo Domingo People's Center here.

Marata received an outlet pass from Woodrow Enriquez after a Ryan Bernardo miss at the stripe and scored while getting a foul from Leo Bat-Og as the Jewellers became the first team to reach the next round.

The win was the seventh straight for Cebu even as Harbour Centre-Pampanga tries to nail down the second semis slot when it clashes with the Quezon Coco Huskers on Oct. 29.

STANDINGS	W	L
M. Lhuillier-Cebu City	7	0
Harbour-Pampanga	4	2
Ilocos Sur Snipers	2	4
Quezon Coco Huskers	1	4
Lactovitale-Cebu	1	5

GAMES FRIDAY (*University of the Assumption*)
4 p.m.—HC-Pampanga vs Quezon Huskers

Bernardo, a former PBA player with FedEx, gave the Snipers their last taste of the lead on a free throw with 15 seconds left, 83-82.

On his second miss, Daryl Smith tapped the ball to Enriquez, who fed a streaking Marata for the decisive three-point play.

Marata went on to pace Cebu with 19 points with Bruce Dacia accounting for 16.

Allan Yu led the Snipers with 16, with former Alaska forward Johnedel Cardel chipping in 14.

Philsoc still looking for swim venue

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHERE to hold swimming will be a major consideration when the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee meets tomorrow to discuss the venues for the 2005 Games.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain said they are still looking for possible venues after talks to hold the competition in San Pablo City fizzled out.

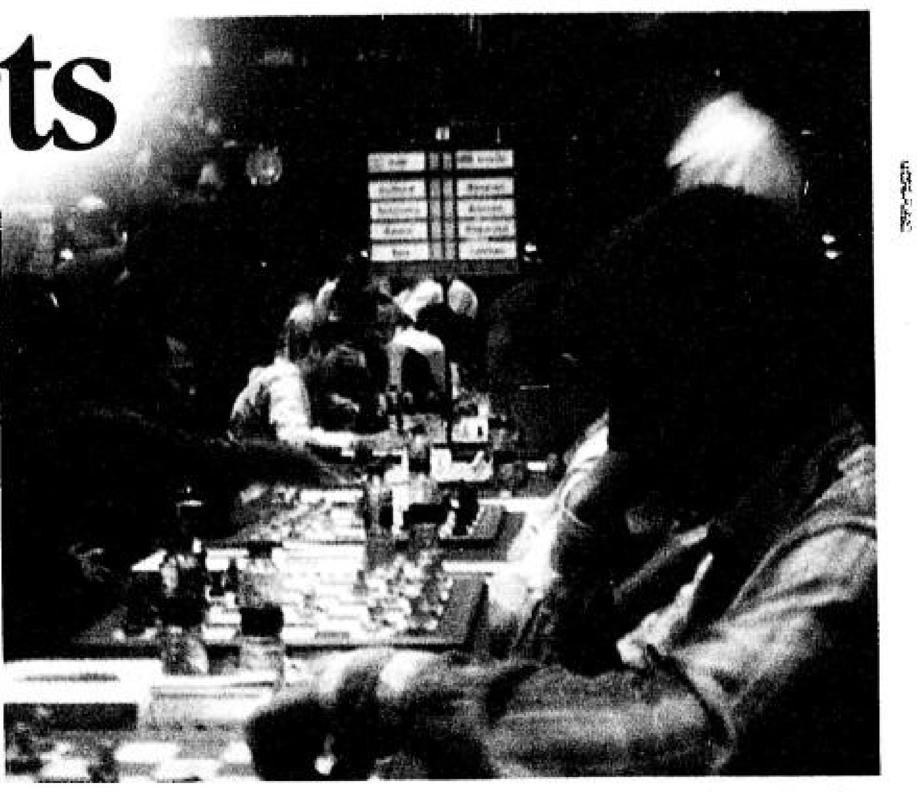
Bacolod City had also expressed desire to host the sport, but the 70-year-old Rizal Memorial pool remains in contention.

"We may have to prioritize that (Rizal) and the shooting range with our P30 million savings," said Buhain, referring to the money the agency saved from its budget under the General Appropriations Act and donated to the SEAG fund.

Meanwhile, Philippine Amateur Swimming Association secretary general Chito Rivera said the country is hoping to match, if not surpass, the three gold medals RP won in Vietnam last year.

"We hope we can get more because of the strong showing of Miguel Molina, Miguel Mendoza and Jaclyn Pangilinan," said Rivera.

Paragua averts shutout vs Azerbaijan



THE PHILIPPINES' Emmanuel Senador (left) and Mark Paragua play against the Poles in the sixth round. The Filipinos dropped the encounter, 1-3.

MALLORCA, Spain—International Master Mark Paragua came through with his biggest win so far, accounting for the Philippines' only point against powerhouse Azerbaijan Sunday in the eighth round of the World Chess Olympiad.

The 20-year-old former child prodigy, whose grandmaster title remains pending, trounced reigning world junior champion Shakh Mamedyarov (2660) in 42 moves of a Benoni defense.

But the rest of his teammates floundered against a team aching to come back from consecutive defeats to Ukraine, Spain A and the United States.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre, playing his seventh consecutive match, bowed to super GM Teimur Radjabov (2663) in 33 moves of a Pirc defense.

IM Jayson Gonzales, handling black, suffered his first defeat at the hands of GM Gadir Guseinov in 36 moves of an Alekhine defense.

Rookie Darwin Laylo put to waste a gallant stand against GM Rauf Mamedov, losing a Nimzo Indian duel in 43 moves.

The 1-3 defeat sent the Philippines reeling to a share of 27th place with 20.5 points, 6.5 behind pacesetting Ukraine.

Ukraine was held to a 2-all draw by Armenia.

Defending champion Russia edged India, 2.5-1.5, to take solo second place with 24.5 points.

The leaders after nine rounds:

Open (129 teams): 27.0 pts.—Ukraine; 24.5—Russia; 24.0—United States; 23.0—Armenia, Israel; 22.5—India, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Cuba, France, Switzerland, Slovenia; 22.0—Poland, Moldova; 21.5—Georgia, Czech Republic, China, Germany, Uzbekistan, Hungary, Bosnia Herzegovina; 21.0—Spain A, Serbia Montenegro, Latvia, Greece, Sweden; 20.5—**Philippines**, Slovakia, Canada, Estonia, Belarus, Macedonia, Turkey

Women (87 teams): 23.5—China; 17.5—Russia, US, India, Hungary; 17.0—Latvia, Sweden; 16.5—Poland, Ukraine, Georgia, Lithuania, Armenia; 16.0—England, France, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Cuba, Moldova, Serbia Montenegro ... 13.0—**Philippines**, Luxembourg, Denmark, Bosnia Herzegovina, Uzbekistan, Estonia, Indonesia

Paragua shrugged off his disappointment over his failure to get his GM title by buckling down to work against Mamedyarov, with whom he has played many blitz matches in the past.

Playing white off a sharp line of the Benoni, Paragua foiled a queenside counter play by Mamedyarov and launched his own attack in the kingside, beginning with a pawn advance on the 18th that won him a pawn 11 moves later.

On the 33rd move, Paragua forced Mamedyarov to ponder hard with a knight thrust, offering a pawn in the process.

"It was over by then. Even if he refused the pawn, that wouldn't matter," said Paragua, whose European campaign is funded by Filway Marketing president Hector Tagaysay.

With 5.5 points out of eight matches, Paragua improved his chances to gain another GM norm.

Earlier, Paragua was informed by the titles and rating committee member Casto Abundo that his application has not been acted upon following the failure of the Alushta organizers to submit a report.

Abundo said Paragua would have to wait until January next year.

In a welcome development, GM Joey Antonio and the rest of his teammates settled a misunderstanding over how players are fielded in the tournament.

Antonio explained that contrary to perceptions, he is not imposing an unreasonable demand that he plays white.

In an hourlong bull session, Antonio poured out his emotion, taking issue with Torre over the distribution of chess colors.

Antonio was rested for Monday's 10th round against 33rd-ranked Estonia.

For the first time in the country's Olympic stint, the Philippines will play a round without its top two board players.

Paragua plays Board 1 for the first time in his young Olympic career, while Gonzales mans Board 2. Emmanuel Senador returns on Board 3, while Laylo plays his seventh match on Board 4.

In women's play, rookie Loreshyl Cuizon posted her first victory to lead the Philippines to a 1.5-all standoff with Uzbekistan.

Cuizon, 18, defeated Women IM Angela Khegai to avenge the loss of WFM Sheerie Joy Lomibao at Board 1 to WIM Olga Sabirova. Beverly Mendoza drew with Iroda Khamrakulova at second board.

Filipino rowers cop silver in China

SHANGHAI, China—The Philippine team pulled a big surprise in the 5th World Dragon Boat Championships last weekend by bagging a silver medal in the men's 200-meter Open race at the Dianshan Lake in Qingpu district here.

The Filipino rowers clocked 44.034 seconds to finish a close second to gold winner Canada, which timed 43.122 seconds.

The Filipinos nipped the Czech Republic bets, who settled for the bronze at 44.564 seconds.

The Philippines, which captured two golds in the pre-world championship races held in Longyu county, Zhujang province, was the only Asian team to reach the finals of the premier event.

The other finalists were Australia, Russia and Great Britain.

The Filipinos also performed creditably in the 100-m race, advancing to the finals together with the United States, Canada, Czech Republic, Britain and Russia.

The Americans eventually won the gold, followed by the Canadians and the Czechs.

Other countries which saw action in the four-day event organized by the International Dragon Boat Federation were Germany, Australia, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, China, Chinese-Taipei, Malaysia, Macau and Japan.

RP head coach Nestor Ilagan praised his rowers for "their big fighting hearts."

The event drew close to 2,000 athletes.

San Miguel BEER
OKTOBERFEST
TARA NA! PARTY NA!
CLOSING PARTY
Oct. 29, Friday, 12 nn onwards
SM Megamall, Parking Lot
Exciting performances by: The Dawn, 6 Cycle Mind, Sandwich, Sugarfree
The Mongols and Parokya ni Edgar
3 days to go!

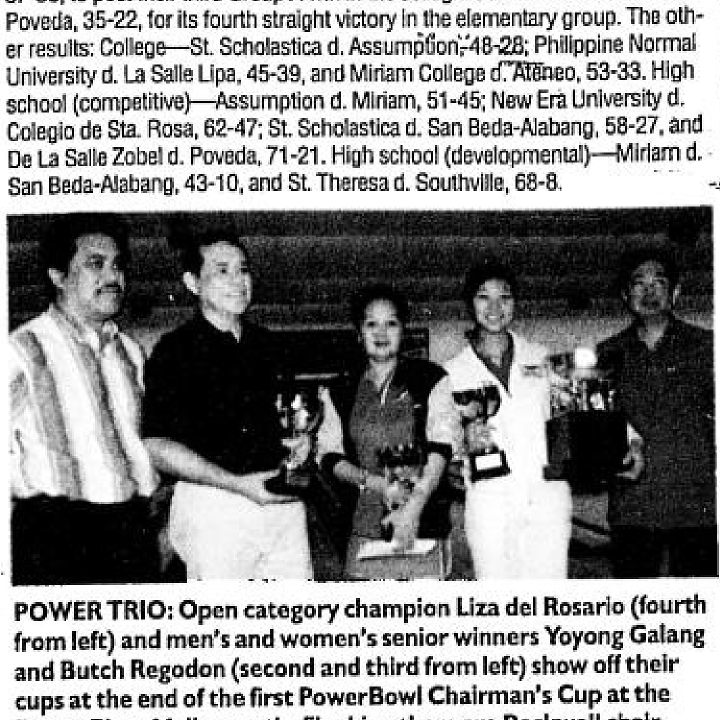
SPORTSWATCH

Thousand early birds in Yakult 10-Miler

MORE than a thousand entries have signed up for the the Yakult 10-Miler, the country's premier and longest-running race of its kino, slated Nov. 7 at the Cultural Center Complex grounds in Pasay City. As of 12 noon yesterday, 250 runners are already entered in the 10-mile event, 650 in the 5K and 150 in the 3K, with still several days left before the registration deadline on Nov. 3. Runners can sign up at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Building at 51 Annapolis Street in Greenhills, San Juan. Registration fee is P100. Late entries will still be accepted depending on the availability of race packets and upon payment of a P200 entry fee. At stake in the foot race, now on its 16th year, is 180,000 in cash, gift certificates and packs. Yakult Phils., Inc. assistant manager for sales and planning Michael Ong said the winners in the men's and women's races of the centerpiece event will each receive P7,000 plus trophies. The runners-up will pocket P3,000 plus trophies, while third to fifth placers will get P2,000, P1,000 and P500, respectively, plus medals. The top three finishers in the 5-K fun run and 3-K kiddie run will receive medals and Yakult gift packs. The race will start and finish on Vicente Sotto Street at the CCP complex.

UST, Miriam cagebelles still unscathed

DEFENDING champions University of Santo Tomas and Miriam College won their respective matches anew last Sunday to show the way in the Milo BEST Women's Basketball League (WBL) at the San Beda courts. Guard Irene Lacaba tallied 14 points as the España-based cagebelles nipped San Beda-Alabang, 37-35, to post their third Group A win in the collegiate level. Miriam crushed Poveda, 35-22, for its fourth straight victory in the elementary group. The other results: College—St. Scholastica d. Assumption, 48-28; Philippine Normal University d. La Salle Lipa, 45-39, and Miriam College d. Ateneo, 53-33. High school (competitive)—Assumption d. Miriam, 51-45; New Era University d. Colegio de Sta. Rosa, 62-47; St. Scholastica d. San Beda-Alabang, 58-27, and De La Salle Zobel d. Poveda, 71-21. High school (developmental)—Miriam d. San Beda-Alabang, 43-10, and St. Theresa d. Southville, 68-8.



POWER TRIO: Open category champion Liza del Rosario (fourth from left) and men's and women's senior winners Yoyong Galang and Butch Regodon (second and third from left) show off their cups at the end of the first PowerBowl Chairman's Cup at the Power Plant Mall recently. Flanking them are Rockwell chair Manolo Lopez (left) and PowerBall manager Boni Solis.

Swift KO win for champ Bautista

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

TAGBILARAN CITY—Undefeated World Boxing Organization (WBO) Asia Pacific bantamweight champion Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista hardly worked up a sweat in putting away Indon banger Christian Kasino late in the first round of their scheduled 10-rounder at a jampacked Bohol Wisdom School gym here Sunday.

The 18-year-old Bautista, egged on by about 8,000 fans watching his first local appearance since turning pro, started well behind a crisp left jab that turned Kasino's face red.

Late in the round, Bautista connected with a left uppercut to the body that sent Kasino down on all fours writhing in pain.

Referee Tony Pesons immediately stopped the fight even as fight doctors jumped into the ring apron to help Kasino, who momentarily fell unconscious in his corner.

The win improved Bautista's record to 12 wins with 9 KOs.

In the top supporting bout, ALA Boy Caesar Amonsot stopped Indon Leed Sabu with several combinations to the face in two minutes 36 seconds of the sixth round.

Referee Baden Ribaya deducted a point off Sabu in the third due to an accidental headbutt.

In the night's most-applauded fight, Japanese Noriharu Iwatani made a handful of his compatriots proud as he unleashed combinations to the face of Billy Vullecer then capped it with a right straight that knocked out the local boy in the third.

Also impressive was South Korean Park Cheon Su, a talented, lanky fighter with power in both fists who stopped Markyll Taroja in the opening round after knocking him down twice.

Other results saw Along Denoy winning by KO in the second round over Emer Barrientos; Melvin Ayudtud by first-round KO over Johnny Lear; Danny Boy Bontilao by unanimous decision over Rico Genon; Robert Allanic by majority decision over Isidro Balabat; and Jerry Manganip by unanimous decision over Noy Agcopra.

Paro, Fuentes leave, fight Thais Oct. 28

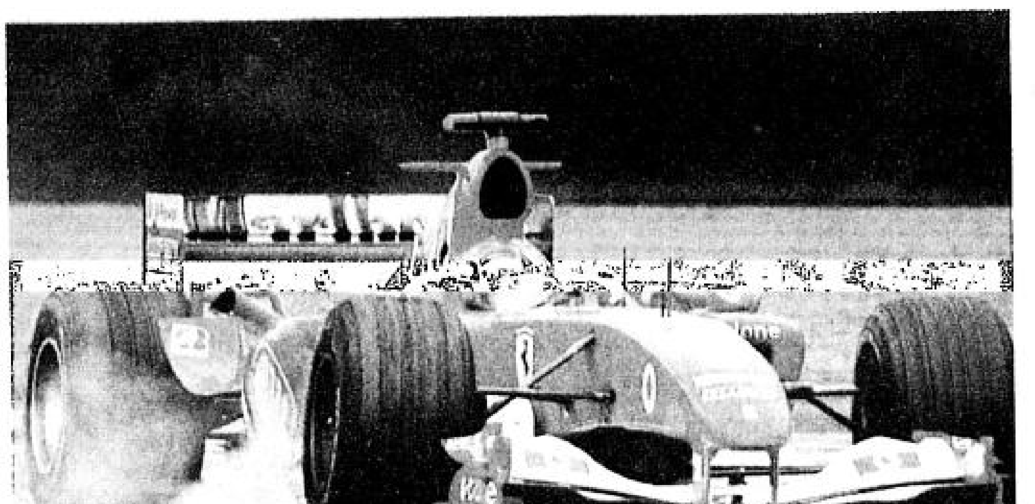
CEBU CITY—Philippine No. 4 super flyweight Sherwin Paro and No. 5 mini flyweight Rocky Fuentes, both of the ALA Boxing Gym here, left yesterday for Bangkok, where they are scheduled for important World Boxing Organization Asia Pacific bouts on Oct. 28.

Paro and Fuentes were accompanied by trainer Edito "Ala" Villamor.

Paro (14-3, 9 KOs), co-managed by Tony Aldeguer and Marty Elorde, will be making his second attempt at a title in Thailand against WBO Asia Pacific super fly champ Pramuansak Phosuwan in a 12-round bout in Uttradith province.

The 36-year-old Pramuansak, ranked WBO No. 2, owns an Asian Games gold medal in 1998 and also competed in the Olympic Games twice in 1996 and 2000. He will be making a 14th defense of his crown against Paro.

In the co-featured bout, Fuentes (8-1, 5 KOs) will take on WBO No. 3 Kaichon Sor Vorapin, younger brother of WBO bantam king Ratanachai Sor Vorapin, for the vacant WBO Asia-Pacific light fly title. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*



WORLD CHAMPION: Ferrari's Formula One driver Michael Schumacher of Germany drives during the 2004 Brazil Grand Prix in Sao Paulo, Oct. 24. Schumacher finished the race in seventh place, but ended the year as world champion. REUTERS

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Mighty Dragon 2. Wild Orphan 3. Maximus 4. Last Dance
Race 2—1. Eye Candy 2. Money Man 3. Dashing 4. Friendly Venture/Jajie
Race 3—1. War Alert 2. Fear Factor 3. Sir Guguy 4. Aya's Star 5. Sharp Drive
Race 4—1. Sugar Ray 2. Federal Court 3. Andee's Ace 4. Crown the King
Race 5—1. Lady Victoria/Front Page 2. Gleaming Heart/Zarsuela 3. Sweet Paula 4. Playing Cool 5. Divine Right
Race 6—1. Half Medium 2. Presidentiable 3. Ann's Magic 4. Cuadro de Alas
Race 7—1. Señor Presidente 2. Voice of Destiny 3. Black Force 4. Great Year 5. Witch Craft
Race 8—1. King Size 2. Habagat 3. Born Perfect 4. Dynamic Jonjon 5. Hurry Prince 6. Centra

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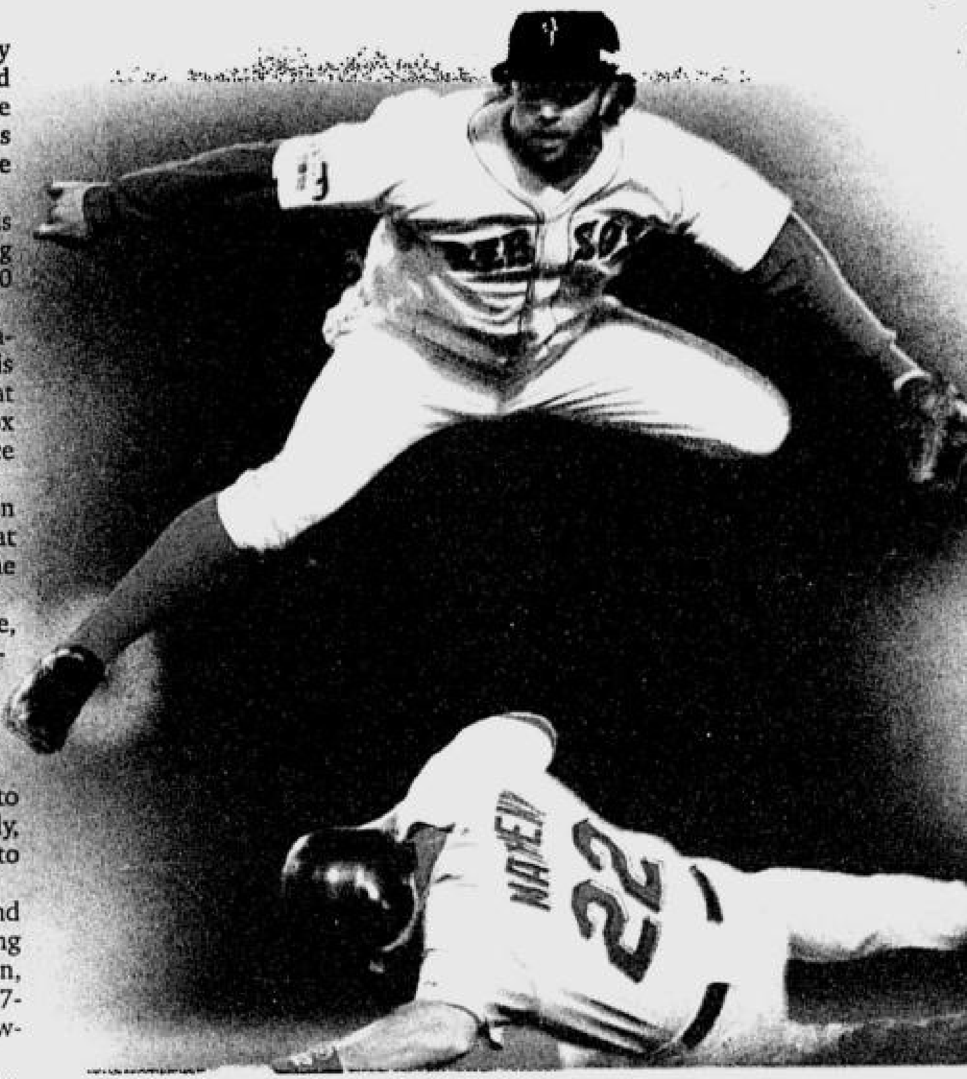
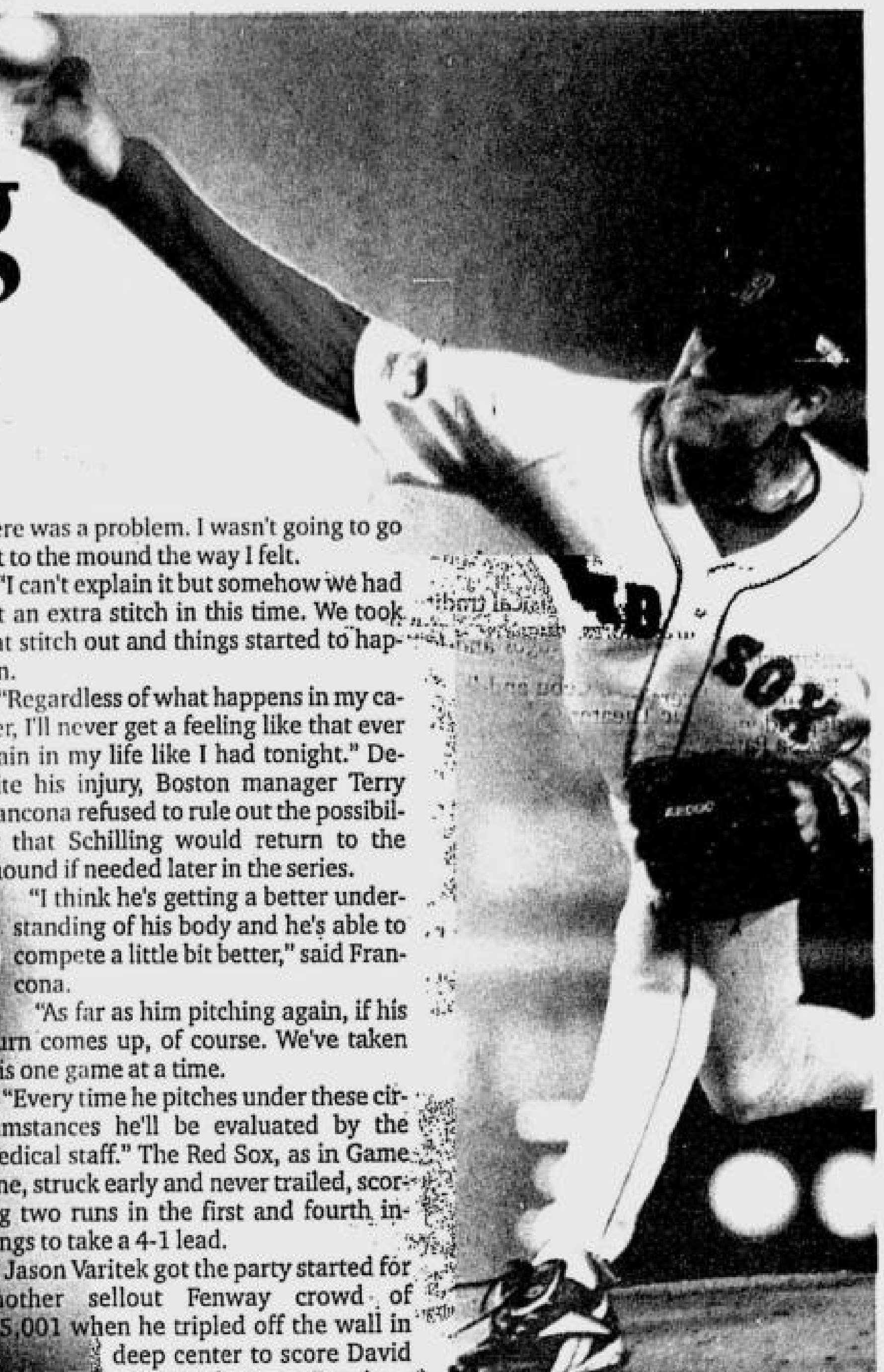
WORLD SERIES

Stitched-up Schilling keys Red Sox victory





RED Sox pitcher Curt Schilling fires a fastball against the St. Louis Cardinals during the first inning of Game 2 of the World Series in Boston, Sunday. Despite playing hurt, Schilling powered the Red Sox to a 6-2 victory and a 2-0 lead in the series. At left, Cardinals runner Mike Matheny is forced out as Red Sox second baseman Mark Bellhorn throws to first to complete a double play. Edgar Renteria of the Cardinals was the hitter. REUTERS

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Reuters

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AFP

PALMER: $.76 million richer

Palmer's 62 yanks Funai crown away from Singh

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida—American Ryan Palmer shot 10-under 62 to come from five strokes back in Sunday's final round to win the $4.2 million PGA Funai Classic.

Palmer had 10 birdies, and his 62 was the lowest fourth-round score by a winner on the PGA Tour in 2004.

The 28-year-old Palmer finished at 22-under 266, three shots ahead of defending champion and world No. 1 Vijay Singh, who shot 67, and overnight co-leader Briny Baird, who posted a 70.

The Tour rookie picked up $756,000 and a two-year tour exemption.

"This is going to be something I cherish forever," Palmer said. "Trying to win for the first time, it's awesome knowing I can beat the best player in the world. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't nervous, but I got off to a fast start and had some things go my way. You need a little luck when you win, and I played great." Fijian-Indian Singh, the world's top-ranked player, was seeking his ninth victory of the year.

He was still in the hunt until he bogeyed the 16th hole.

"Anyone on tour has the capability of playing well and Ryan showed it today," Singh said. "That's an incredible round of golf." Palmer, the fifth rookie to win on tour this year, wasn't completely unfamiliar with victory, having won on the Nationwide development tour in New Zealand last year. He also finished second at the Southern Farm Bureau Classic just three weeks ago, his only previous Top-10 finish.

AFP

Safin clinches Madrid Masters title

MADRID—A change of coach and a change of attitude have helped Marat Safin return to peak form and the Russian number one is now aiming at the Masters Cup with real optimism.

Safin rounded off a fantastic week in Spain by demolishing Argentina's David Nalbandian, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3, on Sunday to win the Madrid Masters.

He is now back up to sixth place in the Champions Race and within sight of a place in the lucrative season-ending tournament in Houston.

"I think I can get to the Masters and get higher in the rankings," said Safin, who had to beat Andre Agassi to reach the final in Madrid.

"Basically, everyone at the Masters Cup can win. Roger Federer is the favorite...but a lot of other guys can give him trouble.

"I didn't really expect to be playing such good tennis. Even last week I lost in the second round without any great tennis.

All of a sudden it turned out like this." Safin has been working with Federer's former coach Peter Lundgren since April this year and he puts his recent improvement down to the new influence.

"What can I say?" Safin mused. "He explains things, he teaches, he tries to explain why, how and what you have to do to reach the goal. He knows the main things that only a professional coach knows."

Safin made several unforced errors in the second set against Nalbandian, just when the Argentine was there for the taking.

The Safin of old might well have started breaking rackets and screaming at that stage but on Sunday he was able to keep his head and soon returned to hitting winners against his opponent.

Reuters

SAFIN AFP

Manchester ends Arsenal's streak

MANCHESTER, England—The Arsenal streak is over and Manchester United is back in the Premier League title race—but not without controversy.

United ended Arsenal's 49-match unbeaten streak with a 2-0 win at Old Trafford on Sunday, with Ruud van Nistelrooy converting a penalty and Wayne Rooney scoring his first league goal for the club in injury time on his 19th birthday.

The win over the defending champion couldn't have come at a better time—United cut its gap to Arsenal to eight points and broke a two-match scoring drought.

"We said this match could kick-start our season," Man United defender Rio Ferdinand said. "Now we put ourselves in a better position where we can get some confidence throughout the team."

AP

NEW Orleans Hornets' Junior Harrington dunks over Los Angeles Clippers' Corey Maggette in a preseason game Sunday. AP

Kings cut Chinese guard from roster

BEIJING—Chinese basketball player Liu Wei's quest to become Asia's first-ever point guard in the NBA has come to an end after he was cut from the roster of the Sacramento Kings, Chinese press reports said Monday.

The former point guard who once teamed with NBA All-Star center Yao Ming on the Shanghai Sharks, was released by the Kings following a Saturday night pre-season match against the Charlotte Hornets, Titan sports reported.

Liu only played in three of the King's six pre-season games, scoring two points and getting two assists and four rebounds in 34 minutes of playing time. The 24-year-old, 6-foot-3 (1.88 meters) guard also committed six fouls and six turnovers during his stint.

The guard won praise by coach Rick Adelman and Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy during the NBA's first ever games in China earlier this month when he faced his former teammate Yao in games in Shanghai and Beijing.

AFP

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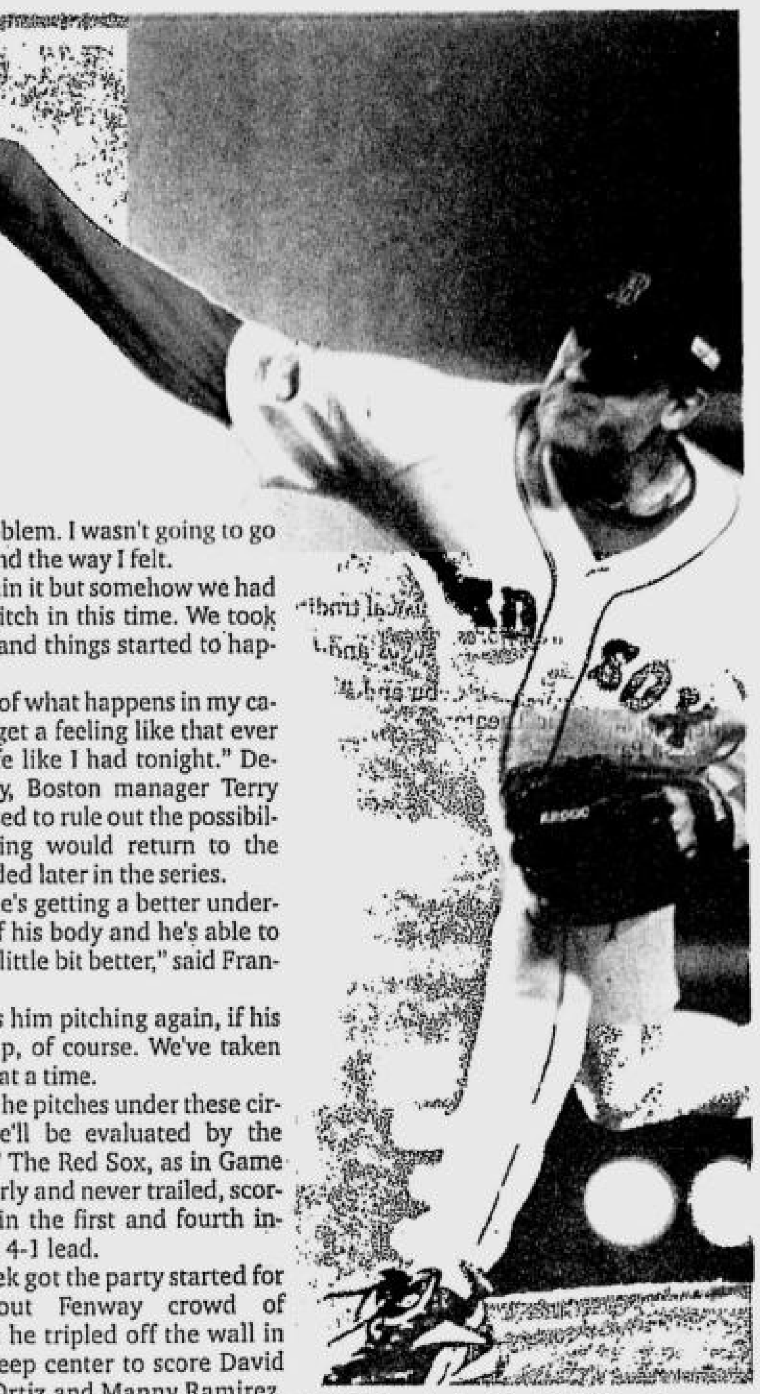
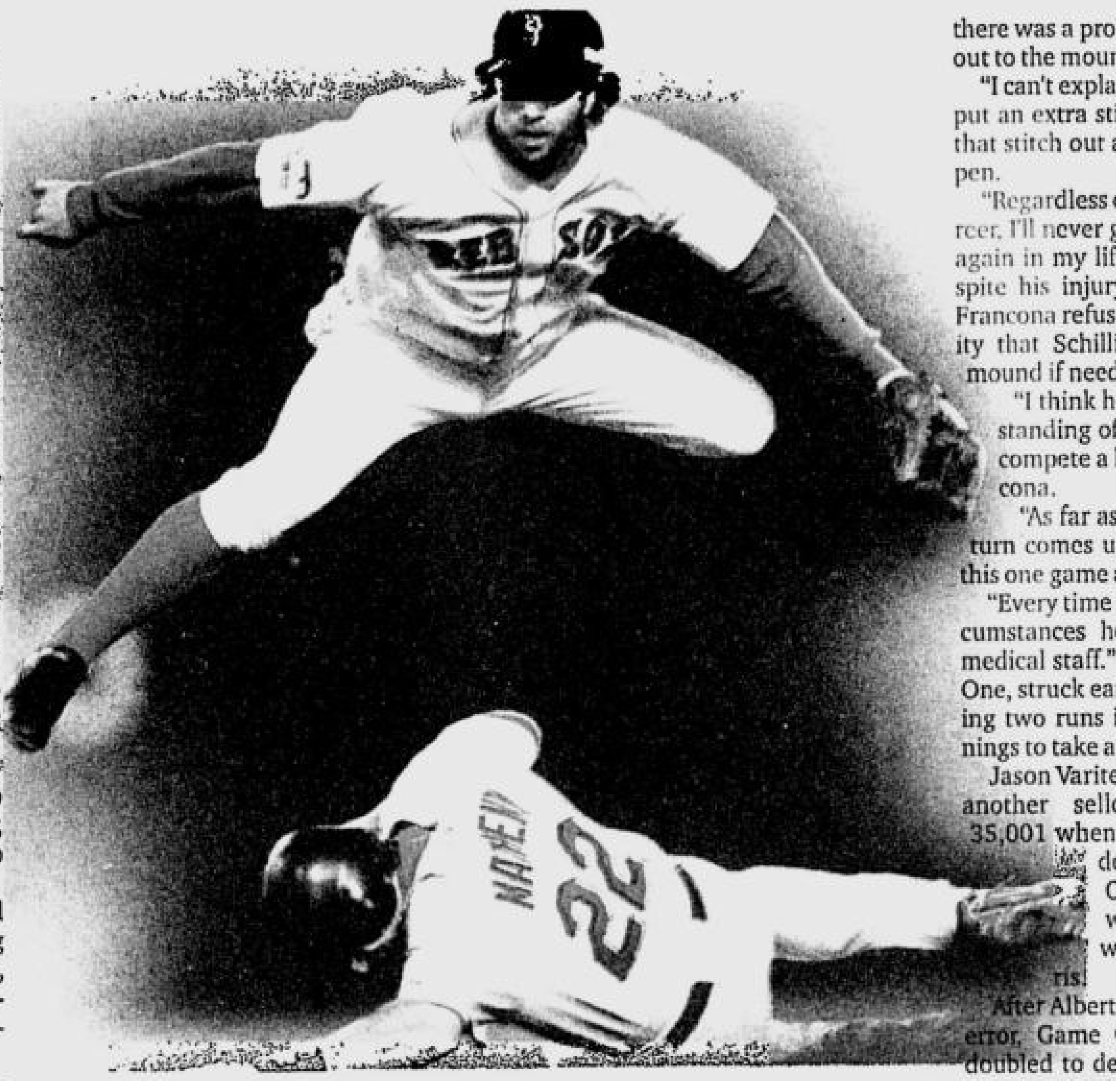
WORLD SERIES

Stitched-up Schilling keys Red Sox victory





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The 28-year-old Palmer finished at 22-under 266, three shots ahead of defending champion and world No. 1 Vijay Singh, who shot 67, and overnight co-leader Briny Baird, who posted a 70.

The Tour rookie picked up $756,000 and a two-year tour exemption.

"This is going to be something I cherish forever," Palmer said. "Trying to win for the first time, it's awesome knowing I can beat the best player in the world. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't nervous, but I got off to a fast start and had some things go my way. You need a little luck when you win, and I played great." Fijian-Indian Singh, the world's top-ranked player, was seeking his ninth victory of the year.

He was still in the hunt until he bogeyed the 16th hole.

"Anyone on tour has the capability of playing well and Ryan showed it today," Singh said. "That's an incredible round of golf." Palmer, the fifth rookie to win on tour this year, wasn't completely unfamiliar with victory, having won on the Nationwide development tour in New Zealand last year. He also finished second at the Southern Farm Bureau Classic just three weeks ago, his only previous Top-10 finish.

AFP

Safin clinches Madrid Masters title

MADRID—A change of coach and a change of attitude have helped Marat Safin return to peak form and the Russian number one is now aiming at the Masters Cup with real optimism.

Safin rounded off a fantastic week in Spain by demolishing Argentina's David Nalbandian, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3, on Sunday to win the Madrid Masters.

He is now back up to sixth place in the Champions Race and within sight of a place in the lucrative season-ending tournament in Houston.

"I think I can get to the Masters and get higher in the rankings," said Safin, who had to beat Andre Agassi to reach the final in Madrid.

"Basically, everyone at the Masters Cup can win. Roger Federer is the favorite...but a lot of other guys can give him trouble.

"I didn't really expect to be playing such good tennis. Even last week I lost in the second round without any great tennis.

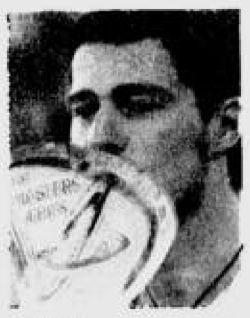
All of a sudden it turned out like this." Safin has been working with Federer's former coach Peter Lundgren since April this year and he puts his recent improvement down to the new influence.

"What can I say?" Safin mused. "He explains things, he teaches, he tries to explain why, how and what you have to do to reach the goal. He knows the main things that only a professional coach knows."

Safin made several unforced errors in the second set against Nalbandian, just when the Argentine was there for the taking.

The Safin of old might well have started breaking rackets and screaming at that stage but on Sunday he was able to keep his head and soon returned to hitting winners against his opponent.

Reuters



SAFIN AFP

Manchester ends Arsenal's streak

MANCHESTER, England—The Arsenal streak is over and Manchester United is back in the Premier League title race—but not without controversy.

United ended Arsenal's 49-match unbeaten streak with a 2-0 win at Old Trafford on Sunday, with Ruud van Nistelrooy converting a penalty and Wayne Rooney scoring his first league goal for the club in injury time on his 19th birthday.

The win over the defending champion couldn't have come at a better time—United cut its gap to Arsenal to eight points and broke a two-match scoring drought.

"We said this match could kick-start our season," Man United defender Rio Ferdinand said. "Now we put ourselves in a better position where we can get some confidence throughout the team."

AP

NEW Orleans Hornets' Junior Harrington dunks over Los Angeles Clippers' Corey Maggette in a preseason game Sunday. AP

Kings cut Chinese guard from roster

BEIJING—Chinese basketball player Liu Wei's quest to become Asia's first-ever point guard in the NBA has come to an end after he was cut from the roster of the Sacramento Kings, Chinese press reports said Monday.

The former point guard who once teamed with NBA All-Star center Yao Ming on the Shanghai Sharks, was released by the Kings following a Saturday night pre-season match against the Charlotte Hornets, Titan sports reported.

Liu only played in three of the King's six pre-season games, scoring two points and getting two assists and four rebounds in 34 minutes of playing time. The 24-year-old, 6-foot-3 (1.88 meters) guard also committed six fouls and six turnovers during his stint.

The guard won praise by coach Rick Adelman and Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy during the NBA's first ever games in China earlier this month when he faced his former teammate Yao in games in Shanghai and Beijing.

AFP

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Musical productions from all over

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines' musical-theater festival from Nov. 7 to 20 has a number of highlights, but we're particularly interested in the musicals being staged by theater artists from all over the country.

For instance, UP Los Baños and the Laguna Cultural Network are presenting "Isko Iska" at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Nov. 10 at Tanghalang Huseng Batute. This is a student vaudeville that has become an annual tradition at UPLB.

From Bohol, "Calenda de Loboc" (Nov. 11 at 2 and 7:30 p.m., at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino) has the Loboc Children's Choir breathing new life into the musical traditions of the *gozos, altares, flores, hugos* and *bolimbomkingking*.

From the University of Cebu and the Cebu Independent Music-Theater Company comes "Tipik sa Panahon" (Nov. 12 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at Tanghalang Huseng Batute), a musical revue.

From the Kaliwat Theater Collective, "Oya Arakan" tells the story of Tuwaang, a Manobo warrior who marries Erlinda, a Christian settler. They are gifted with the *gunso*, the Manobo tribe's ancient sacred jar.

Migrant settlers grab the *gunso* to unearth its secrets and gain power over the tribe. War ensues, and the Bisaya and the Manobo, once united, now engage in bitter conflict. On Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. at Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas.

From the Barasoain Kalinangan Ensemble, "Nang Mabasag ang Banga," in the disparate worlds of Ka Amado Hernandez and Ka Atang de la Rama. At 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 19 and 2 p.m. on Nov. 20 at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino.

And, from Davao's EarthMusic Foundation, "Salima" (Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. at Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas), a tale of war and peace in Mindanao as seen through the eyes of a child. Presented as a multimedia concert theater production.

2005 Bb. Pilipinas

BEAUTIFUL young women are invited to attend the preliminary screenings for the 2005 Binibining Pilipinas, ongoing until Dec. 1, from 2 to 6 p.m. every Saturday. For details, call (632) 9113101, ext. 8283. The grand coronation night will be on Feb. 19, 2005 at the Araneta Coliseum.

'Body Perfect'

AT 11 P.M. on Oct. 27, the National Geographic Channel screens "Body Perfect," a show on body modification techniques around the world.

Examples: On an island off the coast of Indonesian Sumatra, Mentawai women have their teeth filed to sharp points in the name of beauty. In the US, men now embrace radical plastic surgery, from liposuction to buttocks implants. And, in China, some people are having their legs broken and "stretched" in order to become taller.

'Troy' on video

BRAD Pitt's starrer, "Troy," is now a two-disc DVD from Warner Home Video. Bonus features include the creation of the movie's epic battle sequences, a documentary on how the ruins of Troy were unearthed, and how the production's designers created their own version of the legendary city.

Other stars include **Orlando Bloom, Eric Bana, Brian Cox, Sean Bean, Brendan Gleeson** and **Peter O'Toole.**

'Reigning Still'

ON DEC. 3 and 4, **Regine Velasquez** returns to the concert scene with her major concert, "Reigning Still," at Araneta Coliseum. Her guests include **Ariel Rivera, Sarah Geronimo, Rachel Ann Go, Sheryn Regis, Kyla, Francis M, Andrew E, Tux** and **Hotlegs.** Call 9115555.

Salsa lessons

ISBERT Mediacejas and **Greydis Liranza,** dancers from the hit Cuban musical "Lady Salsa," are in town to promote "Lady Salsa," the dance spectacular, slated to open in January 2005.

They are available for salsa workshops every Monday and Wednesday until Nov. 18. Classes are scheduled at 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Steps Dance Studio. On Fridays from 5 to 6:30 p.m., the dance workshop venue is Centro Flamenco.

The salsa is a seductive, sizzling dance built around the twang and tempo of the Spanish guitar and the rhythmic beat of African drums, with a subtle infusion of American jazz. Despite its tri-cultural origins, the salsa is still characteristically Cuban. And, what better way to learn it than from the masters of its intricacies themselves?

'Nip/Tuck'

"NIP/TUCK," the drama series about plastic surgery, is now on home video. The show is about two plastic surgeons in South Florida who get enmeshed in the lives of their patients. This results in episodes full of sizzling drama, dark humor and emotional cliffhanger.

The series topbills **Dylan Walsh** as Dr. Sean McNamara, **Julian McMahon** as Dr. Christian Troy, and **Joely Richardson** as Sean's wife, Julia. The "Nip/Tuck" videos are distributed by Warner Home Video Philippines.

Stolen songs back with Bono after 15 years

BONO says the return was 'an act of grace.'

PORTLAND—A briefcase containing lyrics for songs meant to be used in U2's 1981 album, "October," has been returned to the group's lead singer Bono, 23 years after it was stolen at a Portland concert, the band said on Friday.

Cindy Harris of Washington state found the briefcase in the attic of a rental home in Tacoma, Washington, in 1981, but said she did not learn that it had been stolen until years later.

She contacted the band recently.

Bono, who attended a World Affairs Council meeting in Portland on Thursday to talk about debt relief, poverty and AIDS in Africa, said he was thankful that the lyrics were returned to him instead of being sold for a large sum.

The return was an "act of grace," the singer said.

After the theft, Bono rewrote the lyrics for "October," an album that many fans regard as one of the Irish band's weakest.

Only one song from "October," the title track, was featured in U2's "Best of 1980-1990" collection, as a hidden track at the end of the album.

Bono made appeals whenever he performed in Portland for any information on the whereabouts of the briefcase. *Reuters*

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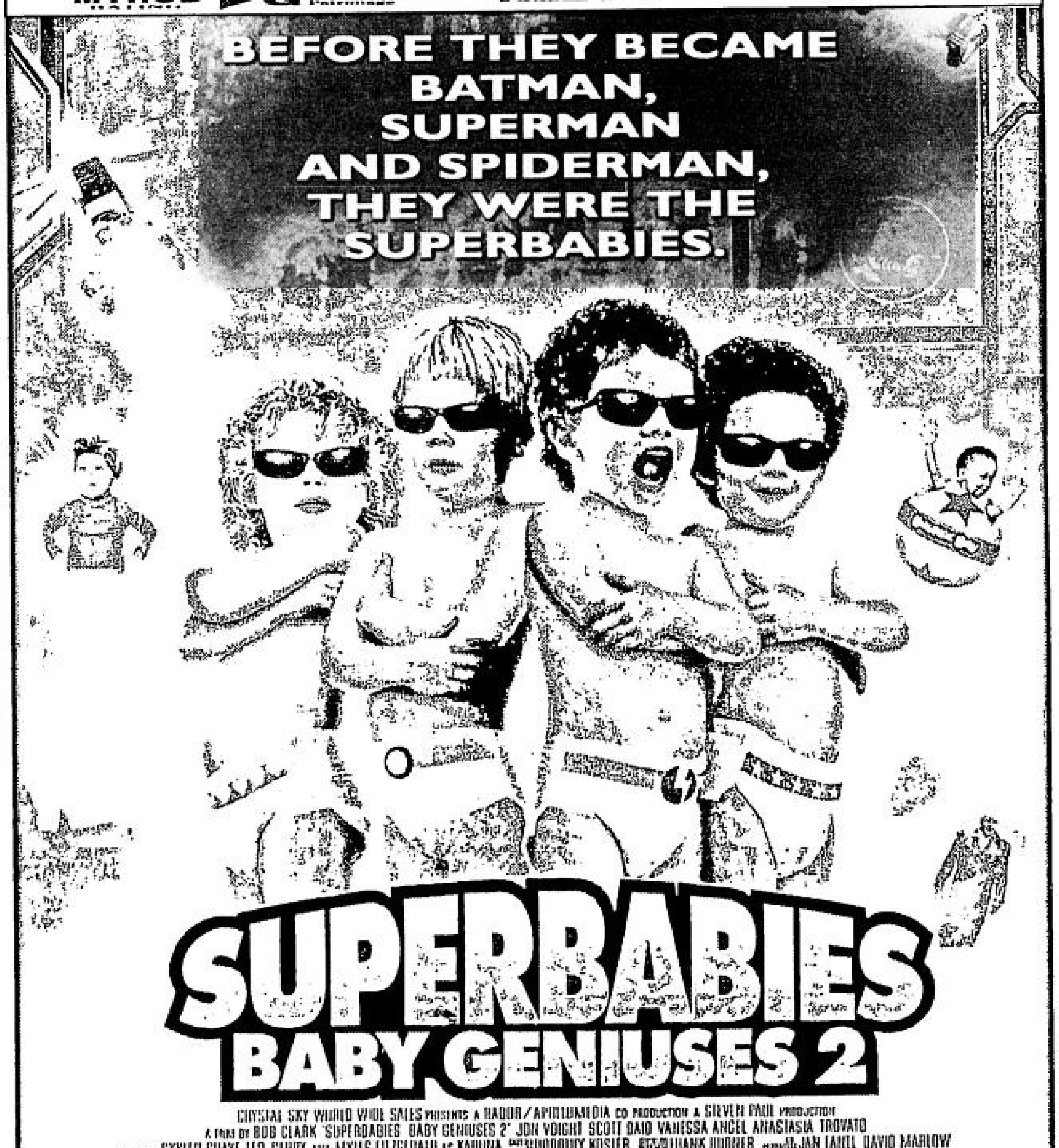

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'Ozzfest' showcases the real Osbourne

BEVERLY HILLS—Ozzy Osbourne is more than just the most famous befuddled father in the world.

Before MTV turned his family into household names with the reality series "The Osbournes," he helped invent heavy metal with his band Black Sabbath almost 40 years ago and went on to enjoy a huge solo career. Now, the "Prince of Darkness" is launching a new series on the music cable channel to remind people that he is a rock star first.

"Battle for Ozzfest," premiering today in the Unites States, pits eight unsigned hard rock bands from across the country against each other for the chance to grab a coveted spot on his annual Ozzfest tour next year.

In one episode, the contestants must bite the head off a bat, just as Osbourne once did.

In a recent interview at his Beverly Hills home, Osbourne, 55, said he thought the concept was "stupid" when his 52-year-old wife and manager Sharon presented it to him, but now he's a huge fan.

"It's just to let people know that we're not "The Osbournes" and I'm still active in my work as I have been for the last 37 years. Sharon's still very active in the managerial side. We're not just sitting in the house."

No hanging around

Thanks to "The Osbournes," most people probably know him as the stammering drug-addled dad who fills in coloring books as he tries to rein in his wayward children and misbehaving dogs.

Yet the love has shone through, and he says the show disabuses people of the notion that he "hangs upside-down from a beam in a Bavarian castle and chews bats all day long."

Just in case people wonder whether the world really needs another reality show from the most over-exposed family in show business, the Osbournes say "the kids" are the stars of "Battle for Ozzfest." Their main job is to fire one of the contestants at the end of each episode.

Production is about three-quarters of the way through, and the winner will be announced in January. By the time Ozzfest kicks off its 10th year in June, the band will have an album in stores courtesy of Sanctuary Records, Sharon said.

Dice with death

The fourth and final season of "The Osbournes" is tentatively scheduled to premiere on MTV in the first quarter.

In previous episodes, Ozzy and Sharon both diced with death—a motorbike accident and colon cancer, respectively. Two of their children, Kelly and Jack, went into rehab.

"We all really love each other, and we're like any other family," Ozzy says. "We have our problems, and we try with the grace of God to get through them." *Reuters*

OZZY Osbourne reminds the world that he is, first and foremost, a rock star.

'Pay for play' hounds US music trade

LONDON/NEW YORK—EMI Group PLC, the world's third-largest music company, said on Friday it was under investigation by the New York Attorney General into how music companies influence what songs are played on the radio.

Sources told Reuters that New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer served Universal Music Group, Sony BMG Music Entertainment, EMI and Warner Music with subpoenas in September.

New payola?

Payola, or bribing radio stations directly for airplay, was widespread in the US during the 1950s and 1960s.

The practice ended in the 1960s after widespread investigations led to laws prohibiting the bribes.

Since then, music companies pay independent promoters who buy new song play lists from radio stations while making suggestions about which songs to play.

The new layer of middlemen blurs the link between record companies and companies that control public airwaves. *Reuters*

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ABS, GMA tie in 5 Star Awards categories

From page A28

Best Public Affairs Program Host.

The "Kapuso" network also took the awards for Best Children Show and Best Children Show Hosts with "Chikiting Patrol" and its kiddie presenters. Its defunct "Click" was picked Best Youth-Oriented Program. Best Reality-Based Competition and Best Reality-Based Competition Hosts went to "Extra Challenge" and its headliners Paolo Bediones, Ethel Booba and Phoemela Barranda.

Although she recently left the show amid controversies, Barranda graciously accepted the tro[redacted]behalf of her former em[redacted]d co-workers.[redacted]medy and live programs, th[redacted] electorate gave split de[redacted]. Ogie Alcasid of Channel 7's "Bubble Gang" was Best Comedy Actor, Ai Ai de las Alas of Channel 2's "Tanging Ina" was Best Comedy Actress. Channel 7's "Eat Bulaga" was Best Noontime Variety Show, Channel 2's "Asap Mania" was Best Musical Variety Show.

Ogie also won Best Musical Variety Male Host for Channel 7's "SOP," but his female counterpart was from the program's direct rival, "Asap Mania."

Hmm, intriguing

There were intriguing ties. ABS-CBN's "OK, Fine, Whatever" and GMA 7's "Dadedidodu" were both named Best Comedy Shows. ("Bubble Gang" was Best Gag Show.)

The archrivals' popular reality-based talent searches—Channel 2's "Star Circle Quest" and Channel 7's "StarStruck"—also shared the title Best Talent Search Program. "SCQ's" Luis Manzano and Jodi Santamaria, as well as Jolina Magdangal of "StarStruck Kids," were Best Talent Search Program Hosts.

Best New Male and Female Personalities likewise came from the two giant networks. From Channel 2 were Erik Santos, grand winner of "Star in a Million," and Pauleen Luna of "Marina"; from Channel 7, Rainier Castillo of "StarStruck," and Bettina Carlos of "Kakaba-kaba Adventures."

Another tie was for Best Lifestyle Show Host, between Charlene Gonzalez of "At Home Ka Dito" and the triumvirate of Angel Aquino, Daphne Oseña and Amanda Griffin of "F." But both shows belong to ABS-CBN, Channel 2 and Studio 23, respectively. "At Home Ka Dito" also won as Best Lifestyle Program.

ABC 5 broke GMA 7's strong hold on documentary productions. "The Probe Team Documentaries" and its reporters led by Che Che Lazaro were named Best Documentary Program and Hosts. "The Probe Team" was aired on Channel 7 for more than a decade until last year, when both camps had a bitter falling out.

ABS-CBN closed the documentary block with the triumph of "50 Taong Ligawan: The Pinoy TV Story" for Best Documentary Special. It was executive produced by Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala of Asian Eye Productions that has been producing documentaries and TV specials for Channel 2 for the last five years, including the award-winning piece, "Batas Militar."

ABC 5's other trophies were for "Island Flavors" and its hosts led by chef Gigi Angklaw—Best Woman-Oriented Program and Hosts—and "Sing-galing" hosts Ai Ai de las Alas and John Lapuz for Best Game Show Hosts.

RPN 9 was included in the winners' circle via "Ricky Reyes Beauty Plus," which was named Best Educational Program. The salon mogul also won Best Educational Program Host, but he wasn't around to accept his trophy.

Fans undaunted

While management and most of the stars of GMA 7 were a no-show, fans of the network and its shows still cheered enthusiastically. Aside from Ogie, who performed Josh Groban's "You Raise Me Up" with Kuh Ledesma, Ara Mina was also around to accept her trophy for Best Single Performance by an Actress—for her work on an episode on "Magpakailanman." She also did the opening number with Juliana Palermo and Jen Rosendahl and presented the awards for Best Musical Variety Female Host and Best Station with Diether Ocampo.

Vic Sotto's award for his sitcom; "Dadedidodu," was claimed by his son, Oyo Boy, who came to the awards night with Tape executive Malou Choa-Fagar. Tape is the producer of "Eat Bulaga" and "Ikaw sa Puso Ko."

The Star Award for Broadcasting Excellence was given to Bong Lapira, who combined humor and eloquence in his acceptance speech.

"I would like to thank the sponsors and organizers of this organization, my followers and co-workers for the last 40 years," Lapira, who had a stroke six years ago, said. "My wife should be given an award, too. *Mahirap ang mag-alaga ng baldado* (It's difficult to take care of an invalid)."

He said he was proud to be a part of the industry where no one has been "questioned for unexplained wealth."

Three special awards were given out. Piolo Pascual and Kristine Hermosa were chosen Male and Female Stars of the Night. Kristine, glowing in a simple aquamarine gown, muttered, "Thank you," and hastily went down the stage. She looked miffed; her boyfriend Diether didn't escort her to the stage.

Real score

GMA 7 is said to have refused participation in the ceremony because of differences with the PMPC. In last month's First Golden Screen TV Awards, presented by the Entertainment Press Society or Enpress, a group of former PMPC members, GMA 7 ran away with the most number of awards.

Theme for the 18th Star Awards for TV was the role of superheroes in Philippine TV. There were three reasons for this, said PMPC president Julie Bonifacio-Gaspar in her speech. "[Superheroes] entertain us and . . . keep us safe from bad elements. [They] also give us hope."

Hosts Lorna Tolentino, Boy Abunda and Piolo Pascual peppered their spiels with references to the theme, but it was Regine Velasquez who gave more insight into the history of Filipino superheroes through a VTR. The opening number had Ara, Juliana and Jen dressed in costumes inspired by Darna, Wonder Woman and Supergirl, and dancing to the tune of "I Need A Hero."

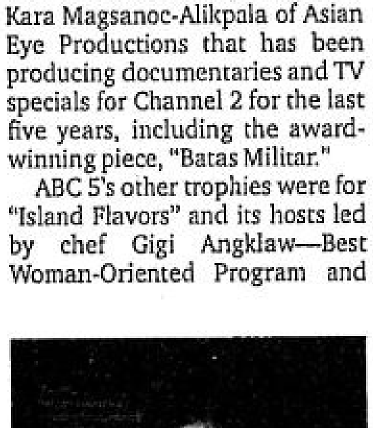
But the rest of the production numbers had nothing to do with the theme. In fact, the whole program sorely needed a superhero to patch up numerous holes caused primarily by miscommunication or last-minute decisions.

For instance, winners for Best Musical Variety Show Male and Female Hosts were not announced right after Best Musical Variety Show. Instead, these were handed out just before the final award, Best Station.

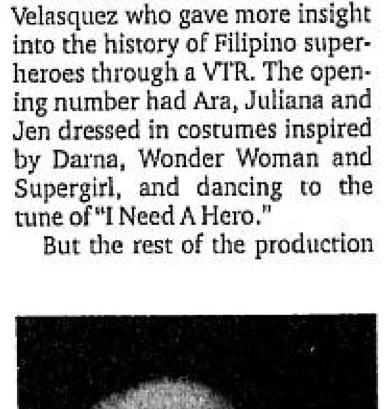
There were embarrassing moments that could have been prevented and should not be committed ever again. For instance, before Daphne Oseña could reach the stage to accept a trophy for "F," the lights shifted to the hosts. So she got to deliver her speech later.

The area for celebrity attendees was not secured.

Right after the ceremony, the ABS-CBN delegation trooped to Uva in Greenbelt 3 in Makati City for a victory party.



ARA Mina, Best Single Performance by an Actress for an episode of "Magpakailanman"



RODERICK Paulate, Best Single Performance by an Actor for an episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya"

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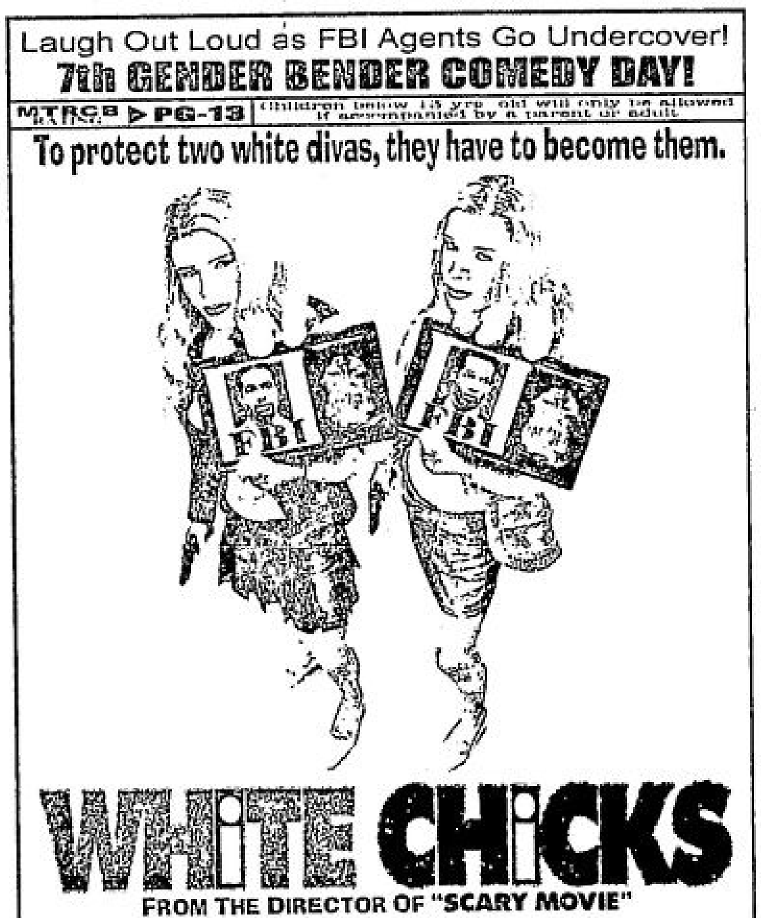
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ABS, GMA 'tie' in 5 Star Awards categories

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

GMA 7 might have sensed beforehand how the 18th Star Awards for TV would go. On Saturday, the network sent a lean delegation to the annual event organized by the Philippine Movie Press

ABS-CBN won in 30 out of 53 categories, including Best Station. The bitter rivals tied in five categories. GMA 7 scored a total haul of 19 wins. ABC 5 made a feeble bid to join the network wars by copping five trophies. But its news anchor, Martin Andanar, shared the Best Male Newscaster citation with ABS-CBN's Julius Babao.

The multiple winners for ABS-CBN were Boy Abunda, Kris Aquino, Korina Sanchez and Babao. Abunda was proclaimed Best Magazine Program Host for "Kontrobersyal" and Best Show Biz Oriented Talk Show Male Host for "The Buzz." Both programs won in their respective categories.

Abunda's "The Buzz" co-host, Aquino, was named Best Show Biz Oriented Talk Show Female Host and Best Talk Show Host for the now defunct "Morning Girls with Kris and Korina." She shared this last title with Korina, who was also cited as Best Female Newscaster.

Sanchez arrived just in time to accept the award for "Morning Girls." Aquino was a no-show. Abunda said she was at work.

Babao also accepted the trophies won by "Magandang Umaga, Bayan" for Best Morning Show and Best Morning Show Hosts, the latter on behalf of his co-workers, including his wife, Christine Bersola, who had just given birth.

Who, me?

Diether Ocampo, one of ABS-CBN's prized young talents, was the most surprised winner of the night. He bested more acclaimed contemporaries Piolo Pascual and Jericho Rosales, as well as seasoned artists like Eddie Garcia, Christopher de Leon and Richard Gomez to emerge as Best Drama Actor. Ocampo's victory was for his work on "Sana'y Wala nang Wakas," which concluded a few months ago.

SURPRISE! Lorna T is stunned to receive the Best Drama Actress for a series that ended last year.

PHOTOS BY JOSEPH AGCAOILI

"In my many years in show business, it's only now that I got an award," he said in Filipino as he accepted his trophy. He thanked people who had helped him and his girlfriend, Kristine Hermosa, whom he referred to as his inspiration.

Lorna Tolentino was also stunned to receive the Best Drama Actress for "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay," which wrapped up last year. Since then, she's done two soaps and one reality show for GMA 7.

"*Kay tagal ko talaga itong hinintay* (I really waited so long for this)," Lorna said, and dedicated it to her husband, actor Rudy Fernandez.

As though to say the station was still tops in making people cry, ABS-CBN's primetime drama series, "Marina," and its drama anthology, "Maalaala Mo Kaya," each romped away with a trophy. Best Single Performance by an Actor went to Roderick Paulate for his work on an episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

But GMA 7's "Ikaw sa Puso Ko" was chosen Best Daytime Drama Series; ABS-CBN's "Nginiig," Best Fantasy-Horror Series.

Most serviceable

Who's the boss in public service and public affairs?

GMA 7's "Imbestigador" was named Best Public Service Program; "Debate" moderators Winnie Monsod and Oscar Orbos, Best Public Service Program Hosts. "Wish Ko Lang" won as Best Public Affairs Program; Vicky Morales,

ABS/ A27

SURPRISE 2! Diether thanks his supporters and his "inspiration," girlfriend Kristine Hermosa who, when it was her turn to accept her award, seemed annoyed that he did not escort her to the stage.

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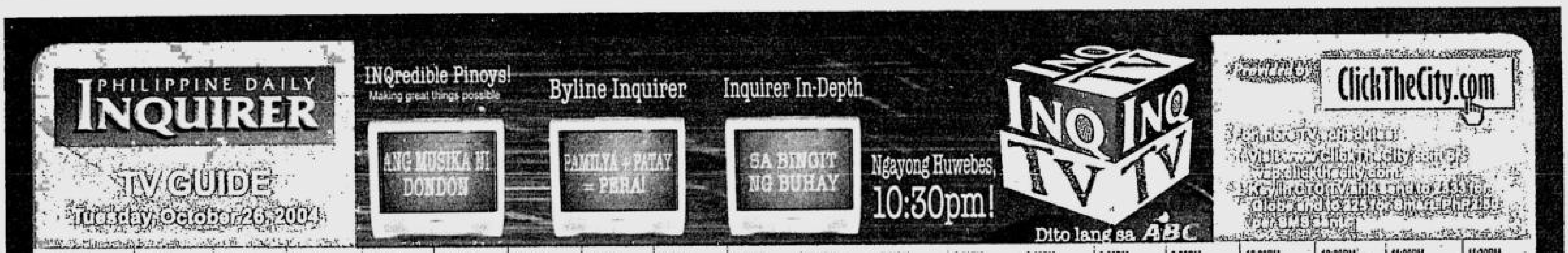

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ABS-CBN		Sarah The Teen Princess	Maid In Heaven	Sandara's Romance	Tokyo Underground	Samurai X	Get Backers	Ragnarok	TV Patrol	Star Circle Nat'l Teen Quest	Krystala	Marina	Hiram	It Might Be You	Bida Si Mister Bida Si Misis			Insider	Pipol
NBN	Value Vision				Teledyaryo	Value Vision		Concert at the Park		Corporate Billiards League		Teledyaryo				Wow Philippines		Auto Focus	
ABC	Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho				Sentro	Lizzie Mcguire	Three Blind Mice		Wow Mall		Big News	Sesvia	The Probe Team Documentaries		Dream Music Videos		
GMA	Leya (2:45 PM)	Joyride (3:15 PM)	Twin Sisters: 100% Señorita		One Piece	Rune Soldier	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin (7:50 PM)		Starstruck (8:50 PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:20 PM)	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN	Metro TV Shopping			The Working President	J2J	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Invader Zim	Entertainment Tonight	Ed		Ally McBeal		Agency		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
IBC		Global Family Series		Home Shopping Network		IBC Express Balita		Home Shopping Network		Pamsas		Global Family Series		Entrepinoy	Good Take	Travel	IBC News Tonite	Up Close And Personal	
Solar		Wwe Raw				Mutant League	Godzilla	Static Shock	Maxsteel	Stargate SG1		Soldier Of Fortune		RHD/LA		The Wire		Oz	
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	Invader Zim/Catdog	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	All That	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	Rocket Power	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brother's Garcia
ETC		Meet My Folks		The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	Knock First	One Tree Hill		The O.C.		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Blind Date	Fifth Wheel
Cinema One	Kiss Mo Ko				Kaya Kong Abutin Ang Langit					Oops Teka Lang Diskarte Ko To!				Mr. Suave				Mga Munting Tinig	
Studio 23	Bewitched	Survivor: Thailand						X-Men Evolution	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup	Strange Brew	The Amazing Race 6		Smallville		News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		The Men's Room
AXN		Record Setters		Maximum Exposure		Fear Factor		Samurai X	Samurai X	24		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Alias		Record Setters		AXN Shakedown	
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CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic	On Assignment	Thrill Seekers		Adventure Starts Here With Toyota		Treasure Seekers		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Thrill Seeker		The Sea Hunters	
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens Of	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	It's Good To Be	A Second Look		Look For Less	Style Star	Road & Track	Back To Basics	Planet Parent	Hot Off The Grill
HBO		Encrypt			Pontiac Moon				Matilda (6:25 PM)			The Ring (8:05 PM)				Sex And The City 65: The Domino Effect	Carnivale 04: Black Blizzard	Life As A House (11:15PM)	
Star Movies	Bollywood Queen			First Blood			I Don't Buy Kisses Anymore				She's The One (7:25 PM)			Original Sin				Entrusted (10:50PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	Swat Kats	Teen Titans	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Digimon Frontiers	Codename: Kids Next Door	The Looney Tunes Show	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Addams Family	The Funky Phantom	Boomerang - [illegible]	[illegible]
ESPN	X-Games X games X - Day 3 Part II LA, CA USA				English Premier League Highlights 2004/05		Cheerleading UCA Nat'l High School Cheerleading Championship	Tennis Masters Series Madrid Madrid, Spain		Pool/Snooker World Pool Masters 2004		Sportscenter Taiwan	NFL Football (I) Broncos Vs Bengals						Sportscenter Taiwan
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	Even Stevens	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	The Scorpion King (2:45 PM)			Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed				Blackheart			Billy Madison			The Wisher			The Animal (10:25PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Choosing Matthias				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Family Law		Judging Amy		Out Of Order			Mysterious Ways		Family Law (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Civilisations				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Science Mysteries	
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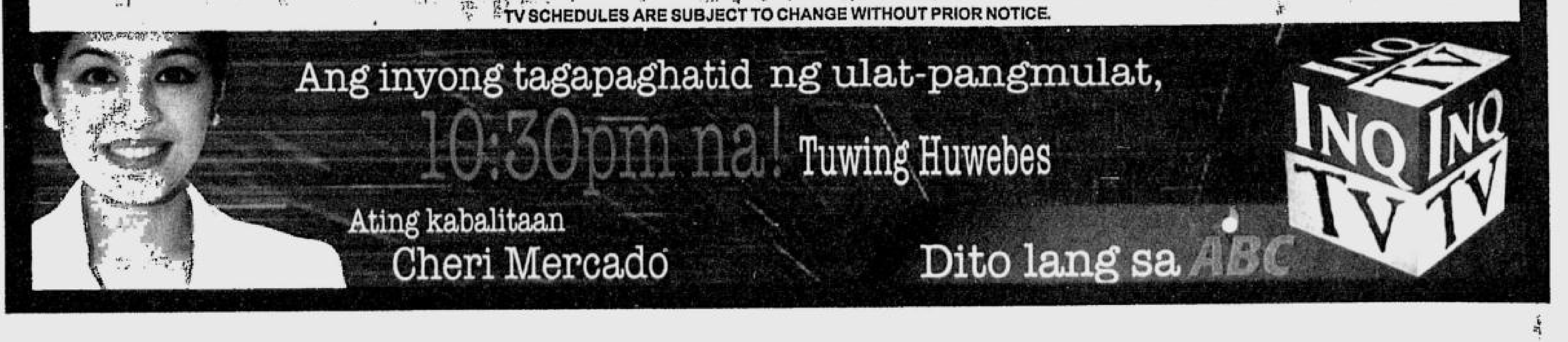

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T-bill yields rise across the board

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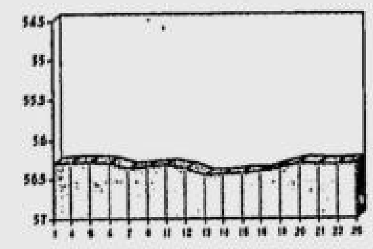

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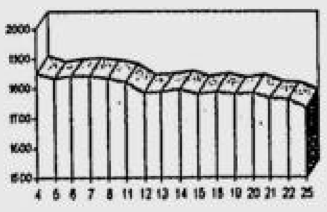
Shares close 1.5% lower



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARE prices fell 1.5 percent to a four-week closing low yesterday following Wall Street's losses last week and continuing concerns about high oil prices, dealers said.

They said selling was broad-based, with telecommunications stocks leading the way as investors turned cautious despite a positive profit outlook for the sector.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 26.45 points to 1,735.69 after trading between 1,725.50 and 1,762.14.

Turnover was 1.59 billion shares valued at P731.7 million after 844.9 million shares worth P505.7 million Friday.

The broader all-shares index fell 3.44 points to 1,102.19.

Losers led gainers 65 to 14, while 35 stocks were unchanged.

Dealers said the index breached the 1,745-point support level to finish at its weakest level since Sept. 22, when it settled at 1,727.88.

"The market could not sustain any buying momentum in the absence of inspiring developments and given lingering concerns about high oil prices," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

Dealers said the continued rise in oil prices—which closed above $55 a barrel on Friday—could hit corporate profits and stoke inflation, pressuring local interest rates higher.

"Chart-wise, the market's failure to rally towards the 1,800 levels suggests further weakness toward the 1,700 levels is to be expected in the coming weeks," said Jonathan Ravelas of Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

AFP

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY bill rates rose across all maturities yesterday after banks priced in the economic uncertainties to be caused by spiralling oil prices, rising inflation and slow progress of the Arroyo administration's proposed fiscal measures in Congress.

The average rate for the 91-day bills reached 7.869 percent, or 9.7 basis points higher than the previously recorded 7.772 percent. The rate for the 182-day paper moved up to 8.951 percent, or 10.6 basis points higher, while that for the 364-day securities rose by 2.2 basis points to 9.926 percent. (One percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points.)

"In view of the rising inflation as partly triggered by increasing oil prices, people are really looking at high interest rates," said a government securities trader. Inflation, which reached 6.8 percent in August, is already expected to breach the government's full-year forecast of 4 to 5 percent in 2004 and 2005.

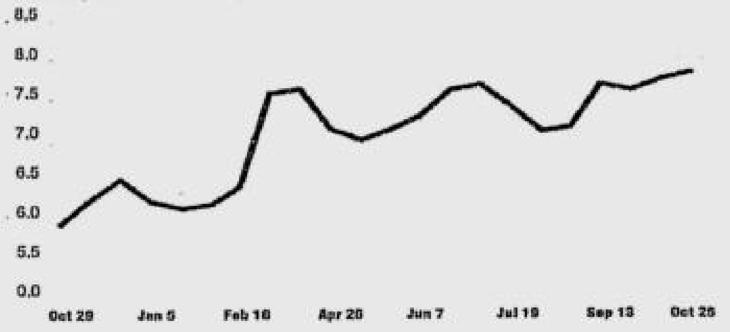
The trader added that although Congress had committed to pass at least three of the Arroyo administration's proposed revenue-enhancement measures, the progress of these measures could only be reflected positively in the rates if these have actually been passed.

The government is pressured to implement some of the measures before the end of the year to prevent a credit-rating downgrade, but barely three months before the end of the year, Congress has yet to pass any of them. The Arroyo administration's proposed measures include the rationalization of fiscal incentives, the indexation to inflation of sin taxes, a performance-based lateral attrition for government agencies, a tax amnesty, the shift from net to gross income tax, a P2-per-liter increase in petroleum taxes, an increase in the value-added tax rate, and a franchise tax on telecommunication companies.

The Bureau of Treasury's auction committee said it allowed the rates to rise, but only minimally and at levels which the gov-

T-BILL/ B2

91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES
Oct. 29, 2003 to Oct. 25, 2004



MANAGEMENT EXPERT

RP 'over-preoccupied' with internal problems

By Ronnel W. Domingo

The country is "over-preoccupied" with its internal problems and is too divided that foreign transnational firms find it the least attractive to invest in, according to a Canada-based business management expert.

Dezso J. Horvath, dean of the Schulich School of Business in Toronto's York University, yesterday told a gathering of business executives that the Philippines was isolated and should integrate more into the world economy.

Horvath, who also holds the Tanna H. Schulich professorial chair in strategic management, was a guest of the De La Salle Professional Schools Inc.'s Graduate School of Business under its Continuing Executive Education Series.

Citing data from the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2004, the professor said the country shared with Vietnam the bottom rank among Southeast Asian economies.

"Under WEF's global competitiveness index, the Philippines [is 76th out of 102 countries and] is last in the region," he said.

The GCI has three components: the technology index where the Philippines was 61st and last in Southeast Asia; and the public institutions index and macroeconomic environment index where it placed 99th and 69th.

In the last two indexes, the country was ninth-worst in the region, a rank higher than laggard Vietnam.

"In terms of public institutions, the Philippines is 99th [out of 102], which means investors really don't like dealing with the government," Hovarth said.

In terms of the WEF's business competitiveness index, the country ranked 70th and within the region was better than Vietnam only.

The BCI has two components: the company operations and strategic rating where the country was 50th and the quality of the national business environment index where the Philippines is 77th. In both cases, the country was ninth-worst out of 10 Southeast Asian countries.

Quoting more data from the International Monetary Fund and the US Central Intelligence Agency's World Factbook, Hovarth noted that the Philippines performed the least in terms of export and import, and in the inflow and outflow of foreign direct investment between 1997 and 2002.

RP/ B4

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Gov't to form debt, risk management agency

By Michelle V. Remo

IN THIS time of fiscal difficulties, the government plans to establish an agency that will be solely responsible for managing the country's public-sector debt and devising borrowing strategies.

The agency, to be called the debt and risk management office, will assume a supervisory role in the borrowings of both the national government and government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs). The agency will be an attached unit of the Department of Finance (DOF), and will also help reduce the debts of the national government and state-owned firms.

The plan was to bring down the national government debt from 78 percent of Gross Domestic Product to only 58 percent, and the consolidated public sector debt from 137.5 percent to only 90 percent of GDP in six years.

Consolidated public sector debt, as opposed to the national government debt, includes even the liabilities of state-owned firms, local government units and government financial institutions.

Thus, it provides a clearer picture of the country's fiscal position.

Managing the debts of GOCCs has been emphasized by both the executive and legislative branches, after it was disclosed that their liabilities were largely to blame for the bloating of the country's public sector debt.

Of the P5.9-trillion public sector debt as of last year, GOCCs accounted for almost half.

Of the national government's own borrowings, a substantial part of it was even set aside to support the state-owned companies.

"We want to formalize and establish a specific group of people whose main task would be to do just that (debt and risk management). We decided it's a better way to manage the situation," said Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto.

Another finance official said creating an agency that will focus on the way the national government and state-owned firms borrow was necessary because currently, no comprehensive risk analysis was done before borrowings were made.

The official added that while the DOF was considered the head agency of GOCCs, its authority to intervene in their borrowings was not clearly defined.

He said that with the new agency in place, the way state-owned firms handled their finances would be scrutinized more closely.

Recto said details of how the new agency would be established have yet to be discussed, but that the DOF hoped to put it up "as soon as possible."

Recto said the creation of the agency might not need legislation. An administrative order would be enough.

He added that the creation of the agency would be done together with the reorganization of the DOF.

Recto said the DOF, like other government agencies, was now discussing the rationalization of its organization structure, including the functions of its attached agencies.

"We need to reorganize ourselves to better address the demands of the economic agenda that has been set forth by the President," Recto said.

T-bill yields . . .

From page B1

ernment could afford. Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola said that despite the increase in rates, the demand for the one-year bills was an indication of improvement in perception of the government's capability to address its economic problems.

Both the three-month and the one-year bills were oversubscribed, with tenders reaching P5.45 billion and P8.3 billion, respectively. The demand for the 91-day paper was higher than the government's offering of only P4.5 billion, while that for the 364-day bills was much higher than the P3-billion scheduled borrowing of the government.

Demand for the 182-day bills, however, was lackluster, as tenders reached only P2.91 billion compared with the government's offering of P3.5 billion.

"The 182-day is an awkward tenor, which traders find difficult to price. That's the reason why we don't get a good rate for it. But banks have a high demand for the 364-day T-bill because they thought the rates may be going down in the future. This seems to be an indication of improvement in perception," Mendiola said in a briefing after yesterday's auction.

The auction committee accepted P4.02 billion worth of bids for the 91-day bills, P1.88 billion for the 182-day securities, and P3 billion for the 364-day paper.

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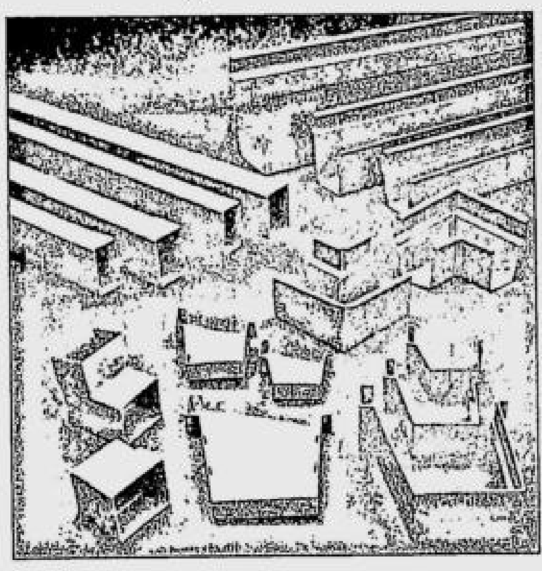

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40th

PRSP ANVIL AWARDS TO TAKE OFF OCT 27

The much-awaited 40th Anvil Awards of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) will be formally launched at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, October 27, 2004 at the Legend Villas on Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City.

Innovative rules and procedures for the submission of entries to this prestigious annual PR competition will be discussed among PRSP members, past PRSP presidents and the media.

Joel Lacsamana of Manila Water and Dulce Baybay Festin of ABS-CBN Foundation, co-chairpersons of the Anvil Awards committee, said there will be improvements in the selection of winners for this year. PRSP plans to make the 40th Anvil Awards more attractive and rewarding to the winning participants.

The Anvil Awards are considered as the "Oscars" of the Public Relations industry to recognize and pay tribute to the most outstanding PR programs and PR tools implemented during the previous year.

In a related matter, the new Board of Directors of PRSP wishes to announce that it does not have anything to do, and does not support, the so-called "PR Congress" which is being peddled by the organizers for P8,000.00 per registrant.

The PRSP would like to admonish sponsors, financiers, suppliers and participants of the so-called "PR Congress" that obligations resulting from the unauthorized event will not be honored by the duly-constituted PRSP board.

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Gaisano goes to Market!Market!

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CEBU-BASED retail operator Vicsal Development Corp. is set to open its Metro Gaisano mall by the third week of November, its first venture in Metro Manila.

Sources said that this would the sixth department store to be put up by Vicsal.

Metro Gaisano will be the anchor department store and supermarket tenant on a 45,000-square-meter lot in Ayala Land Inc.'s (ALI) Market!Market! in Fort Bonifacio, Global City.

Vicsal was incorporated in 1981 and was organized to undertake retail operations. It opened its first department store and supermarket in 1982 pushed by the vision of owner and seasoned retailer Victor Gaisano.

At present, Vicsal operates five department stores with supermarkets in the cities of Cebu (Metro Gaisano in Colon, Super Metro in Mandaue and Metro Ayala), in Legaspi called Metro Legaspi and in Lucena dubbed Metro Lucena.

ALI launched Market! Market! last Sept. 16, a fusion of traditional malls and bazaars.

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GMA imposes talk 'n tax

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

I AM NOT in the mood for writing jokes, as I can't walk despite special shoes and a made-to-measure insole. On Saturday and Sunday, I shuffled around the malls walking ever-slower and in considerable pain, but I cannot just go from the house to the office and back again without going out. I do not want a surgery as severing the nerve might relieve the pain but will leave my foot partially devoid of feeling. I doubt whether foot reflexology will help because the bone has fused. For two pins, I might try acupuncture.

Anyway, I have found someone else with a great sense of humor that might help me write my column. He is none other than the Governor of the Central Bank who has predicted that next year, the peso will appreciate to below 50 to $1. The only reason it has not fallen below its all-time low is that the dollar is crashing against all known currencies—even the Sudanese Kwacha.

Before I get all serious, here are actual headlines taken from American and British newspapers:

Grandmother of 8 makes hole in one.

Deaf mute gets new hearing in murder trial.

Child obesity linked to fat kids.

Police begin campaign to run down jaywalkers.

Flaming toilet seat causes evacuation at high school.

House and Senate discuss marijuana—agree to hold joint session.

Police discover crack in Australia.

Two convicts escape noose—jury hung.

Milk drinkers are turning to powder.

Stem cell scientists to have President's ear.

In Florida, illegal aliens cut in half by new laws.

A quarter of a million Chinese live on water.

Drunk gets 9 months in violin case.

New housing for elderly not yet dead.

Town to drop school bus when overpass is ready.

Iraqi head seeks arms.

Prostitutes appeal to Pope.

Panda mating fails. Vet takes over.

Organ festival ends in climax.

City may impose mandatory time for prostitution.

Eye drops off shelf.

Bush wins on budget but more lies ahead.

Shot off woman's leg helps NICKLAUS to 68.

Miners refuse to work after death.

Tiger Woods feels better after a 69.

* * * *

I DO NOT understand all the fuss about General Garcia. He is alleged to have taken P44 million and stashed away another P50 million. But according to an article in the Sunday edition of the INQUIRER, generals are allowed "*pabaon*" of up to P300 million. So the government owes him P206 million. Lots of young men are rushing to join the PMA (Philippine Millionaire's Academy). Even Bill Gates quit Microsoft in order to become a general. He told an astonished board, "Sorry, guys. I got to go where the money is."

With all the money being paid out to generals, colonels, senators, congressmen, police, customs, the BIR and contractors, I am not surprised that there is virtually none left. I agree with Senator Roxas that the Amnesty Bill is utterly useless. As soon as a big tax evader is subject to a lifestyle check, he will opt to claim amnesty, thereby depriving the state of a large sum. This bill will undoubtedly be passed but it is against the national interest.

I do not believe that the President will get her P80 billion but she has cleverly drawn up a comprehensive list of bills including a telephone tax that will be highly unpopular. She goes on to say that she is not afraid to make unpopular decisions and she is passing these bills on to the legislators to use their "sound judgement." Clearly, a number will not be passed or will be watered down and she can pass the blame on to the lawmakers. Very clever, because whatever the result, she comes out ahead.

If she only ends up with P30 billion, this will not be enough and we will probably be downgraded. That will mean that borrowing abroad, if still possible, will be very expensive. If the funds are taken from the domestic market, interest rates will rise further, the peso will weaken, mortgages will become more expensive and the whole economy will suffer. Inflation will be over 7 percent for the rest of this year.

I would not be a holder of Philippine dollar-denominated bonds, as I fear that we shall ultimately be unable to pay our external debt. The government will not renege as Argentina did—that would be too degrading. But I think that it may be forced to ask for a 3 to 5 year grace period, during which it would not pay any interest. This would allow money to be accumulated to jump-start the economy and concentrate on small to medium enterprises and cooperatives.

At the end of the grace period, the country would be in a better position to pay off the principal and interest. Creditors would not like it but it would be preferable to reneging and they might be sympathetic if a number of tax-raising bills are passed and an anti-corruption drive instigated. Nevertheless, the value of the bonds would fall, as redemption would have been extended interest-free. To some extent, the risk is priced in through the 4.85-percent spread.

When the PHISIX hit its peak of 1,865, 3 weeks ago, the degree of risk reached 100 so I warned subscribers to SELL EVERYTHING on the first sign of weakness. Next morning, the market opened strongly, then started a steady decline. Those who followed the risk indicator were able to get out right at the top. For the next two weeks, the indicator remained high, 50 to 70, but last week, it dropped to 19.

Today, it is down to seven, so this week, I expect BUY signals on a number of stocks with zero or near-zero risk. All subscribers need to do is to wait for my BUY signals and there should be money to be made in the short-term. Congress returns today and investors will be hopeful that they will get on with the business at hand. A great responsibility rests on their shoulders and I feel sure that they are aware of this but the Senate also needs to be cooperative. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

Banks, quasi-banks ordered to form 3 key committees

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY Board has directed the boards of all banks and quasi-banks to create three committees that would focus specifically on audit, corporate governance and risk management.

In a recently issued circular, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' policy-making body stated that the creation of these committees was among the duties and responsibilities of the boards of all banks and non-bank financial institutions.

Aside from defining the functions of each of these committees, the BSP required the inclusion in each committee of two independent directors.

In the case of the audit committee, the head must be an independent director, preferably with accounting, auditing or related financial management expertise.

The audit committee will oversee the banks financial reporting and control as well as internal and external audit activities.

"It will be responsible for the setting up of the internal audit department and for the appointment of the internal auditor as well as the independent external auditor who will both report directly to the committee," the circular said.

"It will monitor and evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control system," it said.

The BSP said the audit committee would have explicit authority to investigate any matter within its terms of reference. It will have full access to and cooperation of the management, as well as the full discretion to invite any director or executive officer to attend its meetings.

The corporate governance committee is tasked to review and evaluate the qualifications of all persons nominated to the board and those nominated to other positions requiring appointment by the board of directors.

This committee will be responsible for ensuring the board's effectiveness. It will oversee the periodic performance evaluation of the board, its committees and executive management.

It will also decide whether or not a director is adequately carrying out his/her duties, bearing in mind the concerned person's contribution and performance.

The risk management committee will be responsible for the development of the institution's risk management program. Its four core responsibilities are as follows:

- Identify and evaluate exposures, prioritize risks that are likely to occur and are costly when they happen;
- Develop risk management strategies, define the strategies for managing and controlling major risks and identify practical strategies to reduce the chance of harm and failure;
- Implement the risk management plan, communicate the plan and loss control procedures to affected parties; and
- Review and revise the plan as needed, ensure that the plan remains relevant, comprehensive and effective.

FDC eyes leisure dev't project

FILINVEST Development Corp. (FDC), the holding company of the Gotianun group, plans to invest next year in a new residential and leisure development in Mactan, Cebu.

This is in keeping with FDC's renewed focus on its core businesses of property development and banking, INQUIRER sources said.

Sources said the project calls for the development of 12 hectares of land in Mactan into a seaside village.

FDC has yet to finalize permits necessary for the project.

The Filinvest group has invested in similar projects, such as the Palms Country Club in Alabang and the Laeuna de Taal in Batangas.

FDC has cash to invest in new real estate projects, following the sale of its 13.7 percent stake in Hocheng Philippines Corp. to its Taiwanese partner Ritiboon International Ltd.

It received $4.65 million from the sale of its 100 million shares in the company that sells bathroom fixtures and sanitary wares.

In a separate agreement, FDC said it would also sell its 60 percent interest in Hocheng Philippines Property Holdings (HPPH) to a local real estate firm for $1.8 million. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

PLDT seen to outpace Globe in 3rd quarter profit results

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's top phone company, is expected to report quarterly profit increase of as much as 50 percent after attracting mobile users with innovative products. Its rival, Globe Telecom Inc., may post flat earnings after failing to launch new products.

Analysts said the fourth quarter should be better for both companies as people buy new mobile phones with their Christmas bonuses.

PLDT is expected to have performed strongly after it launched in July a service for transferring money via text messaging and hooked up with Hong Kong's CSL to offer cheaper mobile services to overseas Filipino workers.

No new product

Globe Telecom, jointly controlled by conglomerate Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecommunications, failed to match PLDT's aggressive wireless products expansion, but may have captured new users in the low-end market after heavily promoting its more affordable prepaid services.

Globe is due to announce its quarterly results on Thursday.

PLDT, the nation's biggest listed company, with a market capitalization of $4.25 billion, reports on Nov. 4.

Three brokerages polled projected that PLDT's profits for July to September would range from P5.2 billion to P6 billion, up from P4.01 billion in the third quarter of last year.

PLDT is a quarter owned by Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd.

Growing subscriber base

Globe is expected to post third-quarter profits of P3 billion to P3.6 billion, compared with P3.2 billion a year earlier, because it did not launch any mobile services during the period.

PLDT, through its banner mobile firm Smart Communications Inc. and smaller unit Piltel, has 59 percent of the mobile phone market, followed by Globe with 40 percent.

PLDT said it added more than one million subscribers in the third quarter to pass the 17 million mark. Globe has yet to release figures.

"The Philippines is one of the bright lights in the telecom sector in Asia," said Citisecurities analyst Mark Canizares.

Targeting OFWs

"Now they (PLDT and Globe) are targeting the overseas Filipino to send money home via text messaging. If the two players get a significant chunk of that market, that alone would be instantly earnings accretive."

Some eight million Filipinos work abroad, usually sending money back home via banks or transfer agencies—a key lifeline for both their families and the Philippine economy. The central bank projects that remittances will hit $8.1 billion this year, up 6 percent from 2003.

PLDT's Smart unit launched its money transfer service in July for Filipino workers in Hong Kong and the United States.

The text message contains an authorization code that relatives in the Philippines show to the agent receiving the money.

Smart has a transaction fee of 1 percent of the value of the transfer for both sender and recipient. Banks charge about 8 percent on every $200, and money transfer agency Western Union has an average fee of 10 percent.

PLDT said about P120 million in transfers had been coursed through Smart's text remittance service as of September.

Globe launched its own text message money transfer service on Oct. 18—a full quarter behind Smart.

While profits from PLDT's money transfer service may be small at present, an analyst from a foreign brokerage house said it might help the company retain its subscribers.

According to Reuters Estimates, analysts expect PLDT to have full-year net profits of P21.7 billion, nearly double the P11.2 billion of 2003. Globe's net profit is seen rising 38 percent to P14.2 billion. *Reuters*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 25, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	50,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.25	18.25	113,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46	45.5	46	4,417,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	74,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	500,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27.5	28	335,300
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	1,500
Philippine National Bank	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	2,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	3,000
Security Bank Corp.	20.5	20.5	20.25	20.25	29,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23	22.5	22.75	27,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	60,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	310,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1650	1655	1650	1655	1,640
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	1,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.18	1.22	1.12	1.22	28,184,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1015	1015	985	985	59,120
Ipeople Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.66	125,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.042	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	2,300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.32	2.34	2.22	2.3	13,074,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	120,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1375	1375	1320	1340	87,560
Ivantage Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	1,220,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	46,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.75	27,200
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	23.75	23	23	398,800
Petron Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.85	1,158,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	100,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	95,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5	5	5	5	3,008,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	640,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.26	2.26	2.22	2.22	399,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29	29.5	26,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28	28	27.5	27.5	78,600
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	56.5	56.5	56.5	51,400
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71.5	70.5	71	108,700
Universal Robina Corp.	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	41,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	800,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	15,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	2,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	2,742,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.4	352,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.021	0.024	26,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	2,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	700,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.62	1.74	28,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.25	15.25	65,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.54	6,190,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.22	190,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.85	2.6	2.85	8,578,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	1,900,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4	4.1	4	4.1	13,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26	245,900
Ionics Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	216,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,020,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.38	66,870,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	440,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	280,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	3,120,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.21	20,050,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	120,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	5,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	86,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	10,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.64	1,090,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	780,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	80,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	140,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.3	490,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.5	83,900
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	21,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.9	6,414,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	460,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	10,290,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	16,940,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	550,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	4,370,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	1,000,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,560,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	4,315,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.007	0.006	0.007	213,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	1,810,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	690,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	44,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	146,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.0046	0.0046	690,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	160,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,100,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	80,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	2,300,000
Interport Res. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	38,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	30,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0046	0.0042	0.0042	115,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	5,000

CURRENCIES

October 25, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.788830165	1.000000	56.3220
Japan	Yen	0.007357	0.009327	0.5253
United Kingdom	Pound	1.442139	1.828200	102.9679
Hongkong	Dollar	0.101319	0.128442	7.2341
Switzerland	Franc	0.651172	0.825491	46.4933
Canada	Dollar	0.639765	0.811030	45.6788
Singapore	Dollar	0.473345	0.600060	33.7966
Australia	Dollar	0.582464	0.738389	41.5875
Bahrain	Dinar	2.092609	2.652801	149.4111
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210355	0.266667	15.0192
Brunei	Dollar	0.471929	0.598265	33.6955
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019114	0.024231	1.3647
UAE	Dirham	0.214776	0.272272	15.3349
Euro	Euro	1	1.267700	71.3994
Argentina	Peso	0.266497	0.337838	19.0277
Brazil	REAL	0.276201	0.350140	19.7206
Denmark	Kroner	0.134521	0.170532	9.6047
India	Rupee	0.01728	0.021906	1.2338
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207615	0.263193	14.8236
Mexico	New Peso	0.068616	0.086984	4.8991
New Zealand	Dollar	0.547114	0.693577	39.0636
Norway	Kroner	0.121851	0.154471	8.7001
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013106	0.016614	0.9357
South Africa	Rand	0.127746	0.161943	9.1210
Korea	Won	0.000692	0.000877	0.0494
Sweden	Kroner	0.110026	0.139480	7.8558
Syria	Pound	0.015296	0.019391	1.0921
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023463	0.029744	1.6752
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000412	0.000522	0.0294

RP 'over-preoccupied' . . .

From page B1

"The country's mindset is limited to the status quo," Hovarth said. "It is too fragmented with too many political parties.".

"Leaders should get to conclusions (in solving problems) and make decisions," he added. "They should focus on how the economy can recover and act on it."

The Swedish-born academic said the Philippines should avoid competing with countries like China and India on all fronts.

"You should find niches, identify where you can succeed. You should develop your own transnational corporations, which don't need to be large ones."

He advised the country's leaders to learn lessons from the experience of Denmark, which is just a tenth of the Philippines in size.

"There are close to 7,000 parent TNC's in Denmark, and they are thriving because they are focusing on niches," Hovarth added.

He said local companies like San Miguel Corp., which is expanding operations abroad, was on the right track but that there was much more to do.

Public told to expect hike in costs of basic services

By Ronnel W. Domingo and Abigail L. Ho

THE PUBLIC should accept the pending hike in the costs of basic services to get the economy back on track, according to a consumer welfare watchdog.

Raul T. Concepcion, chair of the private-sector Consumer and Oil Price Watch, yesterday stressed the urgency for the country to head off a fiscal crisis similar to what had happened in Argentina.

The Latin American country a few years ago suffered a crisis so bad it defaulted on its foreign debts which, in turn, threatened to affect the world economy at large.

"We have to accept petitions for increase in the cost of basic services in order to reflect their true costs," Concepcion said. "We have no choice but to reduce the growing budget deficit."

The industrialist said the primary reason for the huge debt was that major infrastructure projects approved by past administrations and the regulatory agencies were funded with debts guaranteed by the national government.

"(The problem is that such projects) were not explained clearly to the public from the start," Concepcion said. "The rationale for a sovereign guarantee should only be acceptable when the projects have passed the litmus test of viability with true costs being reflected."

Until then, the government should not absorb any debt, he added.

The government has committed to shoulder up to P500 billion of the National Power Corp.'s debt, as well $800 million of the Maynilad water utility's obligation.

The Consumer and Oil Price Watch has committed itself to closely coordinate with the government to ensure that all big-ticket contracts, particularly those in the power and water sectors, are transparent and advantageous to the public.

This is to prevent the country from getting buried even deeper in debts, Concepcion said.

According to Concepcion, the "sins of the past" have taken its toll on the country, driving the government to declare a fiscal crisis and prompting it to come up with revenue measures that could help alleviate the burgeoning budget deficit.

"We now have to pay for the sins of the past," Concepcion said during a briefing yesterday. "It's painful, but it's what we have to do. We just have to accept the increase in taxes as well as other revenue measures that the government will come up with."

The "sins" Concepcion referred to included huge contracts that allegedly passed approval even without the thorough scrutiny of the National Economic and Development Authority's Investment Coordination Committee.

He also cited approvals of subsidies that consumers now had to shoulder, as well as the issuance of sovereign guarantees which the government was forced to bear.

Areas that would need the closest monitoring, he said, were the power and the water sectors, as both involved huge sums of cash as well as big repercussions to consumers if contracts were not executed correctly.

For the power sector, he said the COPW would closely coordinate with the Energy Regulatory Commission and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., particularly with regard to the sale of the National Power Corp.'s generation assets and the National Transmission Corp.'s 25-year concession contract.

Specific attention should be given to the auction of the Transco concession, he said, as this company was one of the crown jewels of the severely debt-laden Napocor.

Dwindling EC subsidies threaten to keep countryside in the dark

By Jerry E. Esplanada

(Second of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

THE GOVERNMENT effort to light up the remaining powerless communities in the countryside has slowed to a snail's pace, partly due to the fiscal crisis now gripping the country, according to an official of the National Electrification Administration.

But apart from that, NEA authorities have to contend with financially distressed electric cooperatives—small utilities that provide power to surrounding cities or communities.

These cooperatives are made up mostly of local power consumers who have joined forces to put up their own power distribution facility.

The government provides loans to the ECs so the cooperatives can operate viably. These loans may later be condoned and passed off as subsidies. Last July, a total of P5.63 billion had been released to 119 electric cooperatives nationwide.

Financially distressed

Bicol region cooperatives were the top recipients with P592 million, followed by those in Central Luzon (P585 million), Western Visayas (P517 million), Southern Tagalog (P509 million), ARMM (P441 million), Northern Mindanao (P395 million), Western Mindanao (P347 million), Ilocos region (P339 million), Central Visayas (P299 million), Caraga (P277 million), Cordillera Administrative Region (P243 million), Central Mindanao (P234 million), and Southern Mindanao (P192 million).

In 2002, at least 43 of the 119 electric cooperatives were categorized by NEA as financially distressed.

Most, if not all, of the ECs had obtained government loans which totaled P2.94 billion in June this year.

The top three loan recipients were ECs from Central Luzon (P975.6 million), Bicol (P659.3 million) and Southern Tagalog (P342 million).

According to Edita Bueno, NEA administrator, the agency planned to "intensify collection of loan payments from the cooperatives."

RA 9136, otherwise known as the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001," had earlier provided for the condonation of about P18 billion (of P20 billion) worth of loans.

To ease its budgetary problems, the NEA would not resort this time to foreign borrowings, Bueno said. "The last time we borrowed money was in the late 1990s."

Debt servicing

A check with the NEA files showed that in July, the agency's foreign loans totaled $199.5 million (about P11.1 billion), including $97.6 million from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of the Japanese government and $36.5 million from the US Aid for International Development.

Over the next 10 years, the NEA has projected a total of P12.8 billion will go to debt servicing (an average of P1.28 billion per year).

Other than the usual money problems, troubled ECs can expect help from other cooperatives under the NEA-initiated Task Force Kapatid program, which pools together volunteers from various ECs.

Their activities range from energizing impossible-to-reach villages to rehabilitation of power lines.

The Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, one of the country's worst performing ECs, was the first beneficiary of the program.

The NEA will also be needing the help of ECs in achieving what the President had referred to as "single-digit systems loss by 2010."

"Systems loss is caused by dilapidated power lines and stolen electricity which, by the way, is bigger," Bueno explained. "One percent systems loss is equivalent to P360 million."

Good on paper

Last year, the level was 15.08 percent, equivalent to about P5.4 billion. The acceptable level is 14 percent, which happens to be NEA's target this year.

RA 7832, also known as the "Anti-Electricity and Electric Transmission Lines and Materials Pilferage Act," was passed by the Ramos administration in Dec. 1994.

Violators of the law face jail terms of six to 20 years, and fines ranging from P10,000 to P100,000.

It also offers monetary rewards (of at least P5,000) to those who would report power line thefts to the authorities.

RA 7832 looks very good on paper. "However, the problem lies in the implementation of the law," Bueno said.

(To be continued)

Northwest seeks $25 surcharge

By Clarissa S. Batino

NORTHWEST Airlines has asked the Civil Aeronautics Board for a fuel surcharge of $25 for each trip between Manila and points in the United States to defray the rising cost of aviation fuel.

The American carrier had sought the highest fuel surcharge for long-haul trips even after it had secured CAB approval in August to raise its fare by $20 for every one-way trip.

Philippines Airlines requested the CAB for an increase in the $6 fuel surcharge to $14 for every one-way flight to the US, Canada and Australia, and to $10 per sector on trips to the Middle East. The flag carrier also sought an additional $2 per sector fuel surcharge on short foreign trips.

The fuel surcharge is added to the ticket price and should be removed once prices of jet fuel ease.

The price per barrel of aviation fuel averaged at $61.05 per barrel from Oct. 1 to Oct. 22 compared to $55.30 a month ago. In June, it was at $44 per barrel.

Taiwanese carrier Eva Air also asked the CAB to allow it to raise the fuel surcharge to $8.40 per sector from $6.50.

Carriers have to ask the approval of the regulator in each destination where they fly before they can impose a fuel surcharge. Airlines that would impose higher air fare without CAB approval could be suspended.

Jet fuel accounts for about 30 percent of an airline's operating cost, the second highest expense after labor, according to industry sources.

Singapore-based Silk Air and Singapore Airlines have filed separate petitions for an additional fuel surcharge.

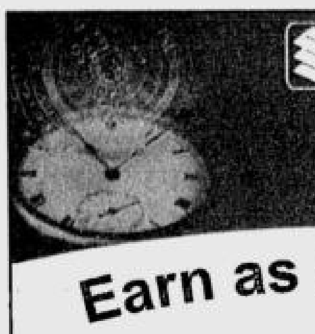
Air Philippines Corp., the low-cost carrier of Lucio Tan, also sought the CAB' go-ahead 's consent to start collecting a $6 fuel surcharge on every one-way chartered flight to China.

Silk Air and Singapore Airlines separately sought an increase of the $5 fuel surcharge to $7 for short trips like those within Southeast Asia, and to $12 for longer flights like those bound for China and India.

Singapore Airlines kept its fuel surcharge unchanged at $4 for flights to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

PAL, Cebu Air Pacific and Air Philippines have also asked the CAB to grant their requests to impose a fuel surcharge of between P200 and P400 on domestic routes.

Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific was the first carrier to be granted an additional fuel surcharge by the CAB. Cathay was originally allowed by the CAB to collect a fuel surcharge of $5 on short trips and $14 on long haul flights.



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2 months	2.625%	2.750%	2.875%	3.000%	3.125%
3 months	2.750%	2.875%	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%
6 months	2.875%	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%	3.375%
12 months	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%	3.375%	3.500%

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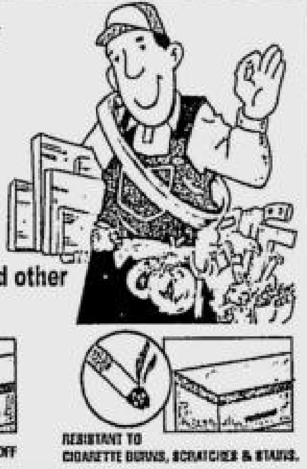

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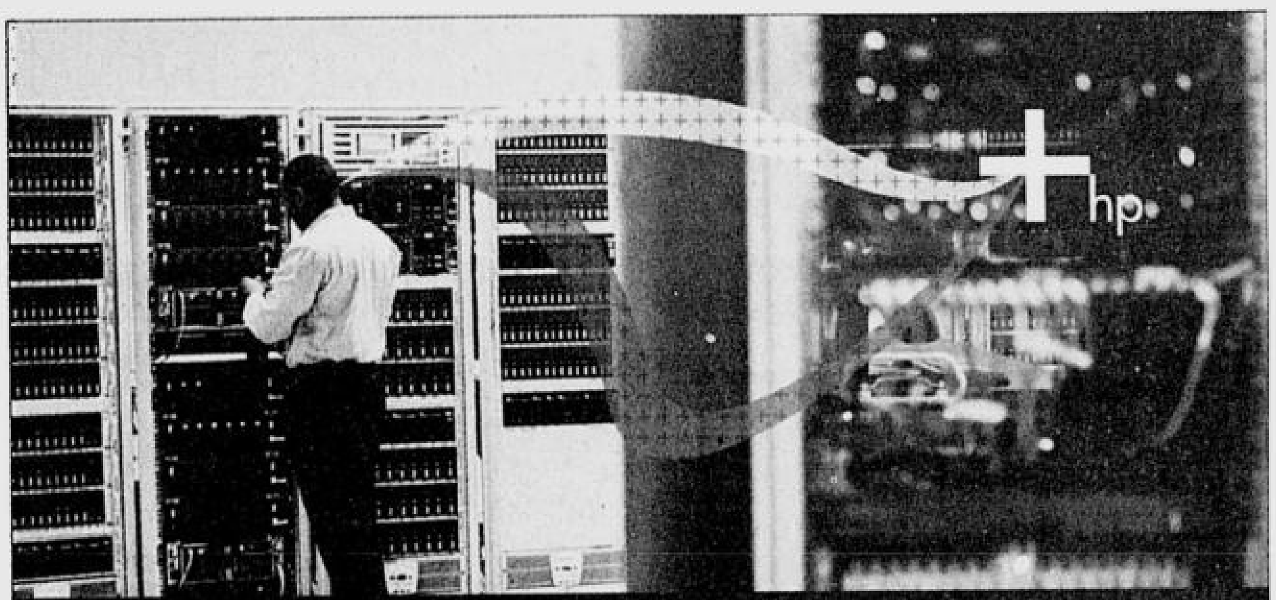

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Messages

MY WARMEST greetings to the officers and members of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc. on the occasion of your Annual National Developers' Convention.

Your theme, "Mas Maraming Pabahay .... Mas Maraming Hanapbuhay!" speaks of your good vision of providing more shelter and livelihood opportunities to your fellowmen. You contribute to the betterment of our society as one of the largest and leading organizations of real estate developers in the country.

I believe that through your steadfast efforts to help our government build the homes of today and tomorrow, we will achieve a strong Philippine Republic. For more houses mean more jobs for our kababayans. In this way, SHDA also contributes towards a better future for our children.

I thank you for your support to the projects and programs of the government. Let us all work and move together toward a more progressive and productive country.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

MY WARMEST greetings to the members of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association Inc. (SHDA) as they hold their Annual National Developers' Convention on October 26-27, 2004.

The Philippines now has a population of 76.5 million. Concomitant with this large population, the Government must speed up its mass housing programs to satisfy our housing backlogs. Realizing this need, SHDA has, for its theme, "Mas Maraming Pabahay ...... Mas Maraming Hanapbuhay!

The convention focuses on an Integrated development strategy that is responsive to the global challenges facing our country today. It, thus, presents an opportunity for the Association to discuss the issues and concerns of developers.

Noteworthy indeed is the Association's thrust of addressing our country's housing needs. We join hands with you as you strive to accelerate the pace of economic progress countrywide. With unity of purpose, it is certain that we will achieve our goals.

May this event promote solidarity among the members of SHDA and be an opportunity for them to consolidate their efforts as the nation struggles for a better future.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

NOLI "KABAYAN" L. DE CASTRO
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

LET me convey on behalf of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc. (SHDA), my warmest greetings to all the participants in the HUDCC-SHDA National Developers Convention 2004. I am also grateful to the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) for the partnership, support and cooperation that it has accorded to our association.

Indeed the SHDA has made gains in promoting developers welfare and addressing the country's housing need. Our theme "Mas Maraming Pabahay... Mas Maraming Hanapbuhay... Katiyakan sa Pabahay ... Yaman ng Buhay" is very timely amidst the challenges around us. We all need to unite and renew our commitment in achieving our common goal of providing decent and affordable housing.

May we have a fruitful and productive 2004 National Developers Convention!

BANSAN C. CHOA
Chairman

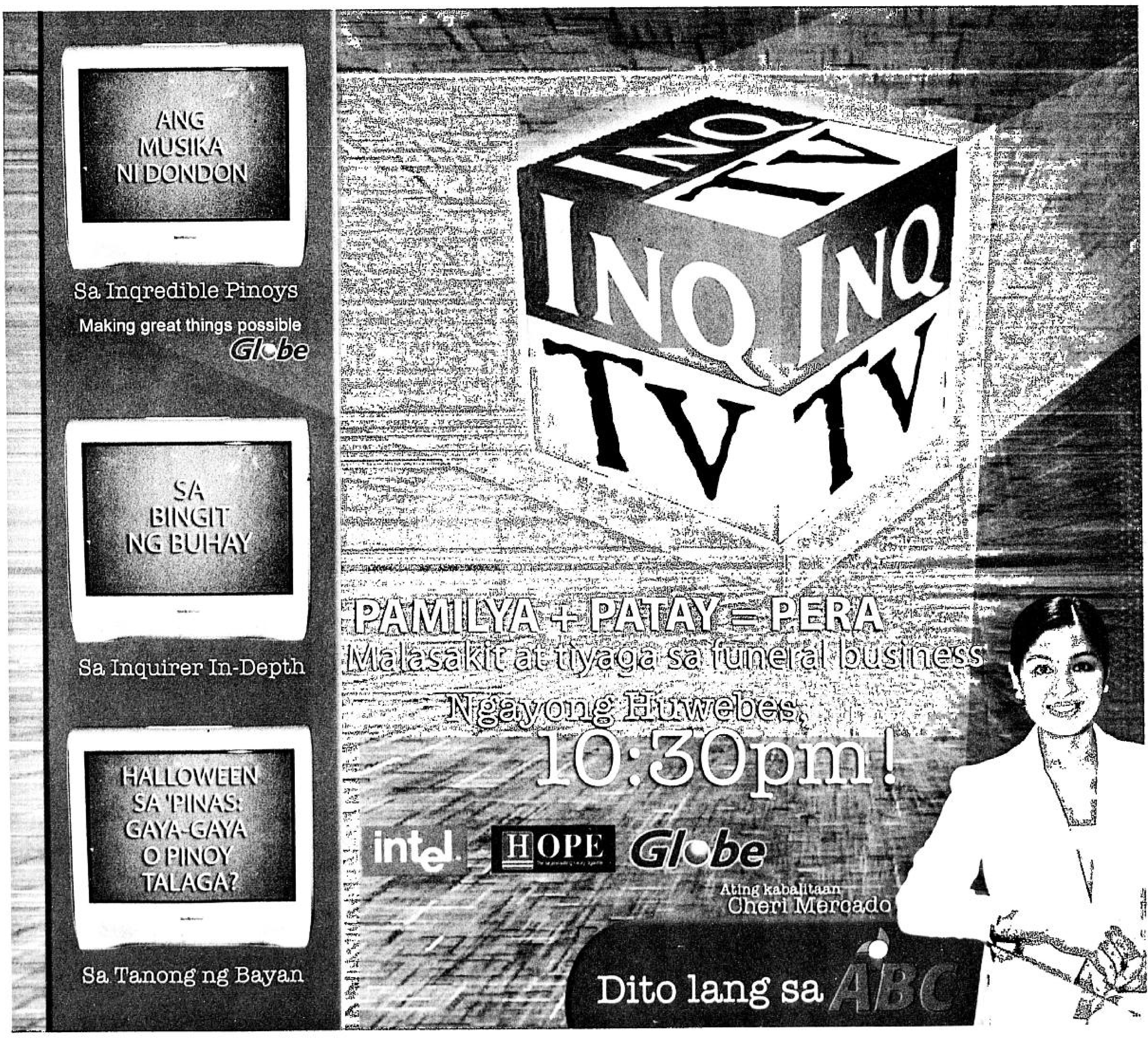
ON BEHALF of the Subdivision and Housing Develoers Association , Inc. (SHDA), I would like to convey my warmest felicitations to the participants of the 2004 National Developers Convention. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Housing and Urban Development Council (HUDCC) for their continued support and cooperation in this endeavor.

This year's convention, carrying the theme, "Mas Maraming Bahay, Mas Maraming Hanapbuhay", reflects the housing industry's dual role as a major contributor to the national economy and an involved partner in the upliftment of the lives of ordinary Filipinos. Through boom and bust, the housing sector has been unwavering in its collaboration with government, and has been a trusty refuge of the labor force. We in SHDA remain committed to that tradition, and we will ensure that our programs continue to help realize the dreams of millions of our countrymen for a home to call their own.

I look forward to an engaging and fruitful convention. We all have a stake in ensuring its success.

Mabuhay ang Industriya ng Pabahay!

MARILU MACABALE-ALFEREZ
National President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SHDA-HUDCC HOLDS

2004 National Developer Convention

October 26-27, 2004 Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City

Theme: Mas Maraming Pabahay ... mas maraming Hanapbuhay

THE SUBDIVISION and Housing Developers Association, Inc. (SHDA), the country's largest and leading organization of subdivision and housing developers in coordination with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) holds its annual National Developers' Convention on October 26 and 27, 2004 at the Rizal Ballroom, Shangri-la Hotel, Makati City. This is to coincide with the celebration of the housing month in October.

SHDA national president Marilu M. Alferez, also general manager and senior vice president of Robinson's Homes, Inc. said that "the affair will be an avenue to identify areas of collaboration between the government and the private sector. The annual convention will bring together all practitioners in the housing industry to keep them updated on the various issues and concerns as well as developments in the housing sector. Several interesting and informative modules during the two-day convention have been lined-up".

SHDA chair Bansan C. Choa, also chair of Confed Properties, Inc. added that as a way of SHDA's support to the government's 10-point priorities and housing agenda, this year's convention will adopt the theme "Mas Maraming Pabahay . . . mas maraming Hanapbuhay! Katiyakan sa Pabahay . . . . Yaman ng Buhay!".

The two-day convention will cover the following modules: Trends and macro perspectives on urban development; Sustainable Financing for the housing sector; Fast-Tracking Permits and Licenses; Report on Housing Deliveries and Dialogue with Key Shelter Agencies.

Simultaneous workshop sessions will likewise be held during the Convention with the following workshop topics: Marketing Strategies for OFWs; Price Stabilization of Construction Materials; and Potential and Business Opportunities from Retirement Program.

Malu Alferez noted that "there is a need for a collaboration approach between the government, the private sector and the homeowner-beneficiaries to address the country's growing housing need. With the Philippine population growing at an average of 2.4 percent annually, we will need some 650,000 new units annually to satisfy the overall housing needs".

Bansan Choa added that "current estimated housing backlog is some 3.7 to 4 million dwelling units. This accounts for the difference between housing production for both the government and the private sector vis-à-vis the overall housing gap through innovative and comprehensive programs".

President Malu Alferez emphasized that "the need for sustainable sources of financing for housing that is essential for both developers' and end-users' financing. The evolution of a Secondary Mortgage Market System and further encouragement of participation of private financial institutions particularly the private banks should be prioritized".

Convention chair, Roy D. Calleja, president of the SHDA Guaranty Fund, Inc. (SGFI) noted that among the major concerns in the housing industry that will be discussed in the convention is the area of simplification and fast-tracking of rules and regulations regarding permitting and licensing process on housing. "This will generally hasten production and add as incentive to private housing developers and investors.

Convention co-chair, Willie J. Uy, president and chief executive officer of Phinma Property Holdings Corporation pointed out that housing is a major industry that can be utilized as an economic pump-priming instrument. There are at least 7 to 10 manpower requirements in building a house; there are at least some 60 direct industries attached to housing and studies show that the multiplier effect of housing is some 16.7 percent". Willie Uy added that as of August 2004 a large chunk of the country's gross value added or some 21.8 percent is accounted for by residential construction".

SHDA board secretary, Juny Santillan, president of PDB Properties, Inc. said that "efforts should likewise be geared towards the preparation of an overall comprehensive land use plan with specific spatial-dimension which can guide planners, policy makers, investors and communities in locating their specific projects and developments". Santillan added that of the total 1,642 cities and municipalities nationwide, only some 50 have updated Comprehensive Land Use Plans". The national and the local government units together with the private sector should link hands to come-up with updated comprehensive land use plans, Santillan added.

SHDA governor, Bienvenido S. Uy, senior vice president of Stateland, Inc. noted that one area of discussion in the convention is with regard the opportunities from retirement industry. Uy said that "the development of the country's retirement industry opens the door to huge opportunities for real estate developers to explore. The Government can improve its Gross International Reserves (GIR) by vigorously promoting the Philippines as retirement destination". Uy added that one source of these investments is the foreign retirees which are estimated to be a huge market. In Japan alone, there are approximately 20 to 30 million retirees. By successfully getting one-tenth of one percent (.1 percent) share of the total retirees who will have to bring a minimum of US$ 50,000 to get the Resident Retiree's Visa, will translate to approximately US$ 1 Billion (20,000,000 x .001 x US$ 50,000).

MAS MARAMING PABAHAY... MAS MARAMING HANAPBUHAY!
KATIYAKAN SA PABAHAY... YAMAN NG BUHAY...

Second vice president, Benirando D. Claudio, president of Makar Properties Development, Inc. noted the need for an urgent population management program that will address not only the concerns of the housing sector but the economy in general. "An aggressive population management program is urgently needed for our country to combat housing population and its imbalanced distribution. This will be indicative of the overall growth and development of our country", Claudio added.

SHDA treasurer, Paul Tanchi, president of Asiatic Development Corporation emphasized the need to promote responsible homeownership by educating homeowners regarding on-time payments of their monthly amortization. "This will ensure good quality of mortgages that are essential in the evolution of secondary mortgage market system and the assurance of funds for financing future housing projects".

SHDA board adviser Marcelino C. Mendoza, president of Crown Asia Properties noted that one of the highlights of the discussions in the convention is with regard the Marketing Strategies for the Overseas Filipino Workers. "The continuous influx of Filipinos abroad necessitates the attention of both the Government and the private sector. Through the Module on OFWs, we will be able to dissect their profile and their corresponding needs which private developers can match with corresponding housing unit" Mendoza said.

SHDA governor Zenaida M. Marquez, president of Empire East Properties, Inc. noted that the discussion on OFWs is very timely and appropriate. Lending companies who have made their niche abroad in marketing their housing stocks will serve as resource persons and speakers. Other information on socio-economic and demographic characteristics of OFWs will likewise be presented. Marquez added that this will be equally interesting and important to all participants.

SHDA governor Manuel J. Colayco Jr., president of LPHI, an affiliate of Ayala Corporation added that "it is important to reach out to the Overseas Filipino Workers and address their housing needs. SHDA developers should ensure the provision of affordable and quality housing to the OFWs since housing ownership is one of the major aspirations of Filipinos overseas".

SHDA governor, Linda Tan, president of R.J. Lhinet Development Corporation said that another important workshop in the convention is with regard the stabilization of supply and pricing of basic construction materials. There is a need to address this matter since supply and pricing is directly correlated with the cost and affordability of housing units that developers produce" Tan added.

SHDA governor, Fely Ramos, vice-president of Filinvest land, Inc. underscored the importance of the evolution of the Secondary Mortgage Market System and the right incentives for the private financial institutions or banks to encourage them to actively into mortgage financing. "Private banks should be provided with enough fiscal incentives and guarantees to ensure their support to the housing sector. Further, the relaxation of stringent Monetary Board and BSP policies especially on reserve requirement should also be looked into" Ramos said.

SHDA governor, Lillian Y. Reyes, vice-president of Firm Builders Realty Development Corporation added that the securitization of mortgages as well as the mobilization of capital market to inject liquidity to home lending system are areas which will be discussed in the pursuit for sustainability of financing for housing.

SHDA governor, Romarico Alvarez, president of P. A. Alvarez Properties, Inc. added that "the convention module on compliance of housing and permitting agencies namely DENR, DAR, DILG and HLRB on Executive Order 45, directing said institutions to observe specific time frame in acting on developers application for permits and licenses is an equally important part of the convention which developers look forward to".

SHDA governor John Paul Dy, president of Prominence Property Development Corporation noted that another important discussion in the convention will be on the regional concerns of developers particularly the regionwide differences in interpretation of various circulars of BIR and DILG. "The convention will be the venue to resolve such differences and corresponding circulars and directives can be issued by respective agency heads to ease-up inconveniences to private developers", Dy added.

SHDA national president Malu Alferez reiterated the commitment of the private sector through the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc, (SHDA) to build decent and affordable housing for all.

SHDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS, OFFICER & ADVISERS
FY 2004-2005

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First-Vice President	WILLIE J. UY	Phinma Property Holdings, Inc
Second Vice-President	BENIRANDO D. CLAUDIO	Makar Properties Dev., Inc
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Auditor	ZENAIDA M. MARQUEZ	Empire East Properties, Inc
Public Relations Officer	ROMARICO T. ALVAREZ	P A Alvarez Properties Dev. Corp
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2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

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ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
Email: pid@info.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of 6,658 pcs Magazine Assy for M16 (20 rounds Cap) Aluminum and 6,913 pcs Magazine Assy for M16 (30 rounds Cap) Aluminum with an approved budget of **P5,910,000.00** chargeable against CY 2004 Weapons Operating Budget.

Likewise, the AFP invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of 1,000 pcs Fuze Assy for Ctg 60/81mm HE with an approved budget of **P2,500,000.00** chargeable against CY 2004 Ammo Operating Budget.

Only bids from entities who are manufacturers of said items and who have manufacturing capability shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **October 19, 2004 until November 18, 2004** during office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) at the BAC Secretariat Office, AFP Logistics Command, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Five Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Pesos (P5,910.00) for the magazine Assy and Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00) for the Fuze Assy.** The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Representatives are required to present a Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder before issuance of the Bid documents and all other transactions thereto:

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on the following dates:

Nomenclature	Date/Place
Magazine Assy for M16 (20 & 30 rds Cap) Alum	November 12, 2004 at 9:00 AM at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, I/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Fuze Assy for Ctg 60/81mm HE	November 12, 2004 at 1:00 PM at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, I/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Bidders who have inquiries must communicate in writing to the BAC Secretariat three (3) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadlines for submission of bid documents are as follows:

Nomenclature	Date/Place
Magazine Assy for M16 (20 & 30 rds Cap) Alum	November 24, 2004 at 9:00 AM at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, I/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City Bid Opening will follow.
Fuze Assy for Ctg 60/81mm HE	November 26, 2004 at 9:00 AM at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, I/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City Bid Opening will follow.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids pursuant to RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(Sgd.) REYNALDO D RIVERA
MGEN AFP
Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 19 & 26, 2004)

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TEL. NOS. (038) 235-4128, (038) 501-8138 • FAX NO. (038) 501-8969

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY / APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority through the Port Management Office of Tagbilaran invites interested bidders to submit Application to Prequalify / Apply for Eligibility, and subsequently to bid, if pre-qualified for the following projects:

A. Name of Project : Emergency Repair/Improvement of Causeway Port of Tubigon

B. Scope of Work
1.) Mobilization/Demobilization
2.) Demolition/Disposal of Damaged Pavement
3.) Demolition/Disposal of Existing Concrete Curb
4.) Supply, Spread & Compact of Sub-Base Coarse
5.) Supply, Spread and Compact of Base Coarse
6.) Portland Cement Concrete Pavement
7.) Provision of Concrete Curb
8.) Supply & Facing of Concrete Facing of Existing Bukhead
9.) Removal/Re-installation of Existing Electrical Posts

C. Contract Duration 150 Calendar Days

D. Minimum Equipment Required

1 unit Backhoe Concrete Breaker	Owned/Leased	2 units One Bagger Concrete Mixer	Owned
1 unit Payloader	Owned/Leased	2 units Concrete Vibrator	Owned
1 unit Road Grader	Owned/Leased	1 unit Bar Cutter	Owned
1 unit Road Roller	Owned/Leased	1 unit Concrete Cutter	Owned
1 unit Water Truck	Owned/Leased	1 unit Boom Truck	Owned/Leased
2 units Dumptrucks	Owned/Leased		

E. Budget for the Contract Source of Funding : P10,755,390.94

F. Required PCAB Registration & Classification : Medium "A" Ports, Harbor and Offshore Engineering

G. Experience:
Similar in nature and complexity with at least 50% of the approved budget for the Contract

H. Cost of Pre-qualification or Eligibility Form : P 200.00
Place of Issuance : BAC Secretariat, ESD, PPA, PMO-Tagbilaran Port Area, Tagbilaran City
Last day of Submission of Letter of Intent November 3, 2004
Issuance of Pre-C Forms . November 4, 2004

I. Deadline of Submission of Accomplished Pre-C/ Eligibility Forms . November 12, 2004

J. Time and date of Pre-Bid Conference, as well as the submission and opening of bids shall be indicated in the Notice of Eligibility

Only contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) with valid and existing Contractor's License and Registration Particulars will be issued Eligibility Forms. The Forms are available at the BAC Secretariat, PMO-Building, Port Area, Tagbilaran City. Interested applicants are required to bring a letter of intent and original copy of Contractor's valid PCAB License for verification/authentication purposes.

Bid documents shall be issued only to eligible licensed contractors upon payment of a non-refundable cost of the documents of P2,000.00.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Provisions of R.A. 9184, series of 2003 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Further information may be obtained from the following:

BAC Secretariat	Tel. No. (038) 501-8138
PPA Website	www.ppa.gov.ph.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority

(Sgd.) RAUL R. OBLENDA
Port Manager

(PDI–Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Davao del Norte
City of Tagum
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

October 25, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Tagum invites interested Suppliers to submit their respective proposal for the hereunder of the stated items

1.) **One (1) unit FIRE TRUCK, Filipino invention, 200 HP, mounted on a Brand New 10-wheeler truck (diesel-driven)** using FIRE PUMP with storage capacity of 2,500 gals (10,000 liters) with dynamic balance brass impeller, coupled to gasoline engine 22 – 25 HP electric start, air cooled, with a maximum capacity of 100 – 150 PSI and can spray from the nozzle tip up to 120 ft. & above and with gun turret 2 1/2" Ø discharge, yellow body with city logo, complete with fire fighting accessories and suits (helmet, jacket, pants, gloves, rubber boots) including freight and handling (FOB–Cagayan de Oro City).

2.) **One (1) unit FIRE TRUCK, Filipino invention, 130 HP, mounted on a Brand New 6 wheeler truck (diesel-driven)** using FIRE PUMP with storage capacity of 1,000 gals (4,000 liters) with dynamic balance brass impeller, coupled to gasoline engine 22 – 25 HP electric start, air cooled, with a maximum capacity of 100 – 150 PSI and can spray from the nozzle tip up to 120 ft. & above and with gun turret 2 1/2" Ø discharge, yellow body with city logo. Complete with firefighting accessories and suits (helmet, jacket, pants, gloves, rubber boots) including freight and handling (FOB – Cagayan de Oro City)

The approved budget is **ELEVEN MILLION PESOS (P11,000,000.00)** chargeable against LGU Development Loan

Interested suppliers/manufacturers may obtain the required eligibility from the BAC Secretariat Office located at the ground floor of City hall building formerly CITY AGRICULTURE Office. (084-218-3839, 084-218-2349) from **October 26, 2004**. The deadline for the submission of applications for eligibility is on **October 27, 2004**

The Pre-bid Conference shall be held at 2:00 p.m. of October 29, 2004 and the Opening of Bids at 2:00 p.m. of November 4, 2004, all at the BAC Secretariat Office.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnity the bidder(s) for any expense that they may incur in the preparation of their bids and to accept such bids that are responsive complying and advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) LORNA L. RASAY
Acting City Administrator
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Oct. 26, 2004)

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Interested applicants may send their resumé with 2 x 2 recent photo and credentials to:

Labor and Employment Center
Bldg. 255 Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

East Avenue, Quezon City
In Compliance to R.A. 7041

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Republic of the Philippines
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Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

BIDDING FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF REMITTANCE FORMS (MI-5) FOR THE USE OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT

No. 2004-012 g

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) wishes to invite duly licensed printers, manufacturers or suppliers for the procurement of MI-5 Remittance Forms for the use of the Individually Paying Members with the following specifications:

MI-5 Remittance Forms for the Individually Paying Members

QUANTITY	: 57,000 pads (11,400,000 sheets, 50 sets per pad @ 4 copies per set)
SIZE	: Width 7 inches x Length 5 inches
MATERIAL	: Imported Carbon-less Paper/Colored on Top side only Impression must be clear up to the last ply White Carbon-less paper Yellow Carbon-less paper Green Carbon-less paper Pink Carbon-less paper Wrapping Paper Cover Clip Board
PROCESS	: Offset printing / Red Gum Padded Back to back printing on all copies
Serial Numbers	: 9 Digits – All Numeric (Crash Numbering) 57,000 pads (105386001-108236000)
Packaging	: 50 pads per corrugated box Serial Numbers must be posted on two (2) opposite sides of the box.

The approved budget for the contract for the MI-5 forms is **Php4,000,000.00** coming from **C.O.B. 2004.**

Bid documents can be obtained from **October 19-28, 2004**, 8:00a.m. to 4:30p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat – Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office, (Room 1804) 18th floor, PHILHEALTH, Citystate Centre Bldg., # 709 Shaw Blvd., Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Php3,000.00.**

A pre-bid conference will be held on **October 29, 2004** at **1:30p.m.** at the Office of the Secretariat – Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office.

Submission of bids will be on **November 12, 2004** on or before **12:00 noon** (during office hours) at the office of the BAC Secretariat (Room 1804). Opening of Bids will follow at **1:30 p.m.** at the same date and venue. The official time clock shall be the wall clock located at Room 1804 (Office of the BAC Secretariat). **Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.**

(Sgd.) OCTAVINO Q. ESGUERRA
Senior Vice President and Chief Actuary
BAC Chairman for Goods and Services

(PDI–Oct. 19 & 26, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2004-019

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements.

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description		PR No./Inquiry No.	ABC
I	Nov. 17, 2004 10:00 AM Pahiyas Room	To supply labor, materials, tools and equipment for Dry Docking and Tank Cleaning of Power Barge 111 located at Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat	VMB	PB041117-MMVB2060	3,500,000.00
II		Operation Materials for Oriental Mindoro Substation & 69 KV	SSB	PB041117-MMSB2061	5,201,520.00
III		Mechanical Parts for Marinawa DPP "CKD"	APD	PB041117-MMAD2062	3,114,000.00
IV	Nov. 17, 2004 2:00 PM Pahiyas Room	Crankshaft, complete for Bantayan DPP "Pielstick"	JCP	PB041117-MMJP2063	7,900,000.00
V		Mechanical Parts for Siquijor DPP "CKD"	ECR	PB040719-MMER1238 (PB2)	4,151,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
Schedule I	Nov. 5, 2004	3:00 PM	Kañao Function Room
Schedule II-V	Nov. 5, 2004	2:00 PM	Kañao Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept., of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 9245357/9245477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP500.00 per schedule starting on October 26, 2004, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. only. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by PSD/MMSD will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidder shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee - ONe and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **LORENZO S. MARCELO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI - Oct. 26 & Nov. 2, 2004)

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Department of Health
Center for Health Development - V
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
811-7802 loc. 36 • 473-8936; 473-2334

October 12, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

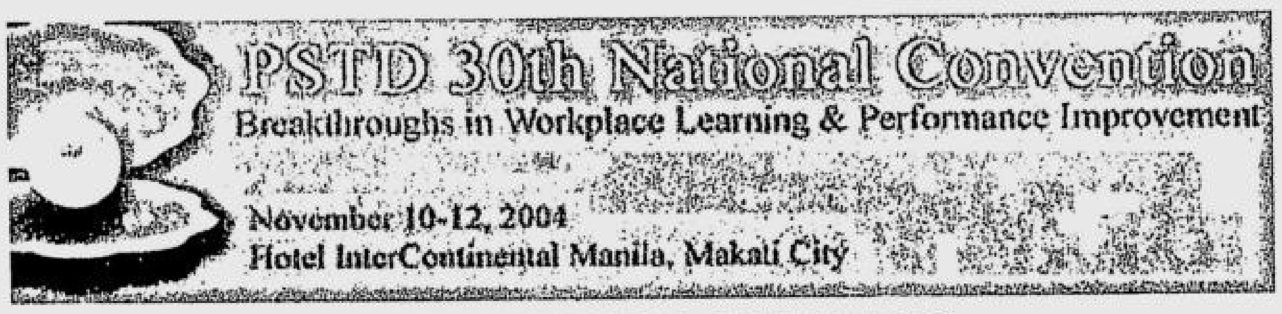
1. The Bicol Medical Center (BMC) invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders who are qualified to participate in the following projects:
    a. *Project:* Procurement of Security Services (20 Guards) for Calendar Year 2005
    Approved Budget for the Contract: TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PhP2,400,000.00)
    Release of Bid Documents: October 18 to November 18, 2004
    Pre-Bid Conference: November 18, 2004 9.00AM BMC Auditorium
    Bid Opening: December 2, 2004 9.00 AM, BMC Auditorium
    b. *Project:* Procurement of Janitorial Services (35 Janitors including supplies/materials) for Calendar Year 2005
    Approved Budget for the Contract: FIVE MILLION PESOS (PhP5,000,000.00)
    Release of Bid Documents: October 18 to November 18, 2004
    Pre-Bid Conference: November 18, 2004 2:00 PM, BMC Auditorium
    Bid Opening: December 2, 2004 9:00 AM BMC Auditorium
    c. *Project:* Procurement of Textile Materials
    Approved Budget for the Contract: SIX HUNDRED NINETY SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY PESOS (Php696,650.00)
    Release of Bid Documents: October 18 to December 3, 2004
    Bid Opening: December 7, 2004 9:00 AM BMC Auditorium
    d. *Project:* Procurement of Various Office Equipments
    Approved Budget for the Contract: SIX HUNDRED TWENTY SIX THOUSAND PESOS (PhP 626,000.00)
    Release of Bid Documents: October 18 to December 3, 2004
    Bid Opening: December 9, 2004 9:00 AM BMC Auditorium
2. Eligibility of prospective Bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), The Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and is open to all organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process of eligibility check is described in Clause 12 Section II of the INstruction to Bidders. In accordancw with the IRR-A of RA 9184, only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and the Purchase Order (PO) awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, provided the Bidder concerned passes the post qualification process.
3. Interested Bidders who wish to inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain further information should contact the BAC Secretariat c/o Supply Section, Bicol Medical Center, Naga City, Telephone No. 473-2334; 473-89-36, from 8:00 a.m. TO 5:00 P.M., Mondays to Fridays.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents per project may be purchased by interested Bidders, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TWO THOUSAND PESOS (PhP2,000.00), and submission of a written application to the following address:

    Dr. RODOLFO C. URSUA
    Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
    Bicol Medical Center
    Naga City

5. Bids must be delivered to the above address on the specified date and time per project. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the approved budget, in any of the following forms/terms:
    a) Cash, certified check, cashier's/manager's check, Bank draft, or irrevocable letter of credit - One Percent (1%)
    b) Bank Guarantee - One & A Half Percent (1-1/2%)
    c) GSIS Surety Bond - Two & A Half Percent (2-1/2%)
6. The BMC reserves, the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to issuance of the Award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder of Bidders.

(Sgd.) RODOLFO C. URSUA, MD, FPCS, FPUA
Medical Specialist II and Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Oct. 20 & 26, 2004)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Bridging Strategy to Outcomes Using Performance Mgmt & Strategic Coaching Eliseo Corpus, Jr. SC Johnson and Son, Inc.	On-line Executive Education: As Good as the Real Thing? Thomas Ng Universitas 21 Global Executive Education	Optimizing Training Potentials Through Neuro-Linguistic Programming Dr. Imelda Villar St. Scholastica's College Manila	The SMART Way of Managing Performance: An Integrated Approach Annaliza Villamor SMART Telecommunications, Inc.
Sharing World Class Practices: The Microsoft Way Loida Sagaran MICROSOFT Philippines, Inc.	Growing our Leaders: Management Development at Del Monte Philippines Ma. Isabel Malferrari Del Monte Philippines, Inc.	Training Augmented by Lessons Experienced by Speakers Dino Santos Energized Training Consultancy	Evaluating Training at the Job Impact Level – The CTP Experience Mario del Castillo Performance Technologies Malaysia Sdn.Dhd
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Competency-based HR: The Philips Experience Reynaldo Dizon Philips Semiconductors	Developing Leaders as Drivers of Employee/Customer Engagement Vicki Perlas International Exchange Bank	Brainbreaks and Funny Bones Sr. Harriet Hormillosa and Jhoen Buenaventura RCWF Foundation, Incorporated	Belief Map: A Training Tool for Behavior Change Norman Goss Norman Goss Training Services

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- 40 units Island Tower module with Clear Acrylic Shelves (same used in Watsons)
- 300 units Brand New 1ft.x 4ft. Clear Glass Shelves ½ inch thick

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AUCTION

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MOTOR VEHICLES; GENERATING SETS; UNUSED PIPE FITTINGS; ELECTRICALS; PUMPS & MOTORS; POWER HAND TOOLS; OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT; CAR ACCESSORIES; MISCELLANEOUS

ON: Thursday 28th October 2004 - 10:30 A.M. Sharp

MOTOR VEHICLES - KIA PREGIO (WBU-927), HONDA ACCORD V-Tech (UJP 833), 2 HONDA GYRO Scooters
UNUSED/USED GENERATING SETS - CUMMINS/FGWILSON P220E 250 kva, P77E 90 kva Diesel Standby DENYO DCA45SPH 45 kva Sound Proof DENYO DCA25SPY 25 kva Sound Proof SHIN KOBA 7 8 kva, TURME (Used) 5 kva Diesel Generators
UNUSED PIPE FITTINGS - Copper/Brass Elbows, Tees Couplings, Reducers, Hose Connections, Flanges, Copper Pipe, Steel Couplings, Reducers, Elbows Tees, Flanges Wye Strainers Safety Valves, Relief Valves etc.
ELECTRICALS - Circuit Breakers, Magnetic Contactors, Transformers, Capacitors, Control Panel Housings, DANFOSS Differential Pressure Controls; Electronic Overloads, Fade-Out Charge Thermostats, SIEMENS Terminating Blocks, Electrical Extension Cords, Fluorescent Lamp Fixtures, Street Post Lamps
PUMPS/MOTORS - Diesel Engine Water Pump, Rotary Vacuum Pumps Hydraulic Pumps Air Pumps Induction Motors Blower Motors, Compressors, Hydraulic Cylinders
POWER/HAND TOOLS - Hydraulic Pipe Bender, MASATA 10-Ton Hydraulic Body-Frame Repair Kits Step Ladders, MAKITA Drill & Grinder Sets, MAKINA Routers, Planers, CROSSMAN Socket Wrench Sets, Combination Wrenches, Adjustable Wrenches, Pipe Wrenches, Plier Sets Screw Driver Sets, Cable Pullers, Riveters, Bottle Jacks, Hacksaws
OFFICE FURNITURES & EQUIPMENT - Pentium 3/2 Personal Computer Sets, Printers Photocopying Machine Steel Filing Cabinets, Steel Lockers Computer Tables (Unused) Wooden Drawers (Unused)
CAR ACCESSORIES: - HONDA Fog Lamps, Dancing Lights; KIA CD5/LX Gear Console, Bumper Guards Spoiler w/ Led Seat Cover
MISCELLANEOUS - 60 & 135 Grams Soap Moulds; Aluminum Framed Glass Panels, Wooden Door Frames, DECIBEL Antenna Fixtures; AUTOROL Dry Pallet Chlorinators 3M Photodeveloping Accessories Wooden Hampers (Unused) Portable Gas Burners Stainless Heavy Duty Coffee Maker Assid Plastic Kitchenware Industrial Rollers & Gears Steel Racking

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Viewing Date: Wed. 27th Ocotber 2004 - 9AM-5PM & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php10,000 (upon registration)

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Lovingly Remembered
on his ***25th Death Anniversary***

CESAR R DIVINAGRACIA

of Cebu City and Quezon City

Who joined his Creator on October 26, 1979

Massess will be offered on October 26, 2004
at the following churches:

***Sta Teresita Parish Church**, 43 Kanlaon, Quezon City*	*6:00 pm*
***Sto Domingo Church**, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City*	*6:00 pm*
***St Jerome Emiliani and Saint Susana Parish**, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City*	*6:00 pm*
***Immaculate Concepcion Parish**, Lantana St., Cubao, Quezon City*	*6:00 am*
***Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish**, Mahinhin Street, UP Village,Diliman, Quezon City*	*6:00 am*
***Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**, Kamuning, Quezon City*	*6:00 pm*
***Christ the King Chapel**, E Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City*	*6:00 pm*
***Basilica del Sto Nino**, Osmena Boulevard, Cebu City*	*5:30 pm*

We, the family, requests those whose lives he touched to pray for his eternal rest.

I will always thank the Lord
I will never stop praising Him;
I will praise Him for what He has done.
Psalm 34:1

Fung Me Wa

Peacefully joined her Creator and her loving husband ***Kuan Fong*** *on October 23, 2004 at the age of 80.*

Her loving children **Robert** and **Yvonne**, **Helen** and **Castor Quan**, **Joseph** and **Jane**, **Choleng** and **Sin Cho Si** (†); her ever loving grandchildren **Kelvin** and **Reah**, **Natalie**, **Jeremy**, **Sherwin**, **Karen**, **Mary**, **Dennis**, **Krystle**, **Joanne**, **Brian**, **Jonathan**, **Melody**, **Ryan** and **Lincoln**; her great grandchildren **Karlos** and **Yñigo**. Relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 27, 2004 at the Chinese Cemetery after the 8:30 a.m. service.

Atty. JOSE R. SANVICENTE

Passed away in the Grace
of our Lord on October 24, 2004
at the age of 91.

He is survived by his wife **Elisea**; children **Joel & Cherry Pie** and **Evangeline**; grandchildren **Anton**, **Cara**, **Inna**, and **Josh**; brothers & sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 27, 2004 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

In Loving Memory on
32ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of our dearly beloved

MARIETA JULIANO ARNAEZ

April 4, 1940 - October 26, 1972

We, **Romy & Dart** and **Sandra**, **Day & Richard**, **Jumbo & Rachel**, and **Jet**, request all her relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Paz Delfin Martin

December 24, 1916 - October 24, 2004

Bernardino Martin (†); daughter and son-in-law **Ofie** and **Horace**; grandchildren **Chat**, **Jun**, **Bernard**; brother **Nestor** and **Mercy**; sisters **Tess**, **Renee** and **Enteng** (†); and other relatives, request friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Body lies in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue until tonight, October 26, 2004 after which she will be transferred to Polo Chapel on Wednesday afternoon.

Interment follows at Polo Cemetery, Thursday, October 28, 2004 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Polo Parish Church, Valenzuela.

Our Dearly Beloved

JOSE AARON S. DAVID

Peacefully joined our Lord
on 23 October 2004 at the age of 36.

His bereaved wife **Lanie** and son **Isaiah John**; mother **Prescy**; sister **Peewee**; brothers and sisters-in-law: **Joel**, **Aris & Divine**, **Nonoy & Gigi**, **Nides & Cheryl**; nephews and nieces: **Jet**, **AJ**, **Luke**, **Joshua**, **Leanne & Sam** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Quezon City on Thursday, 28 October 2004 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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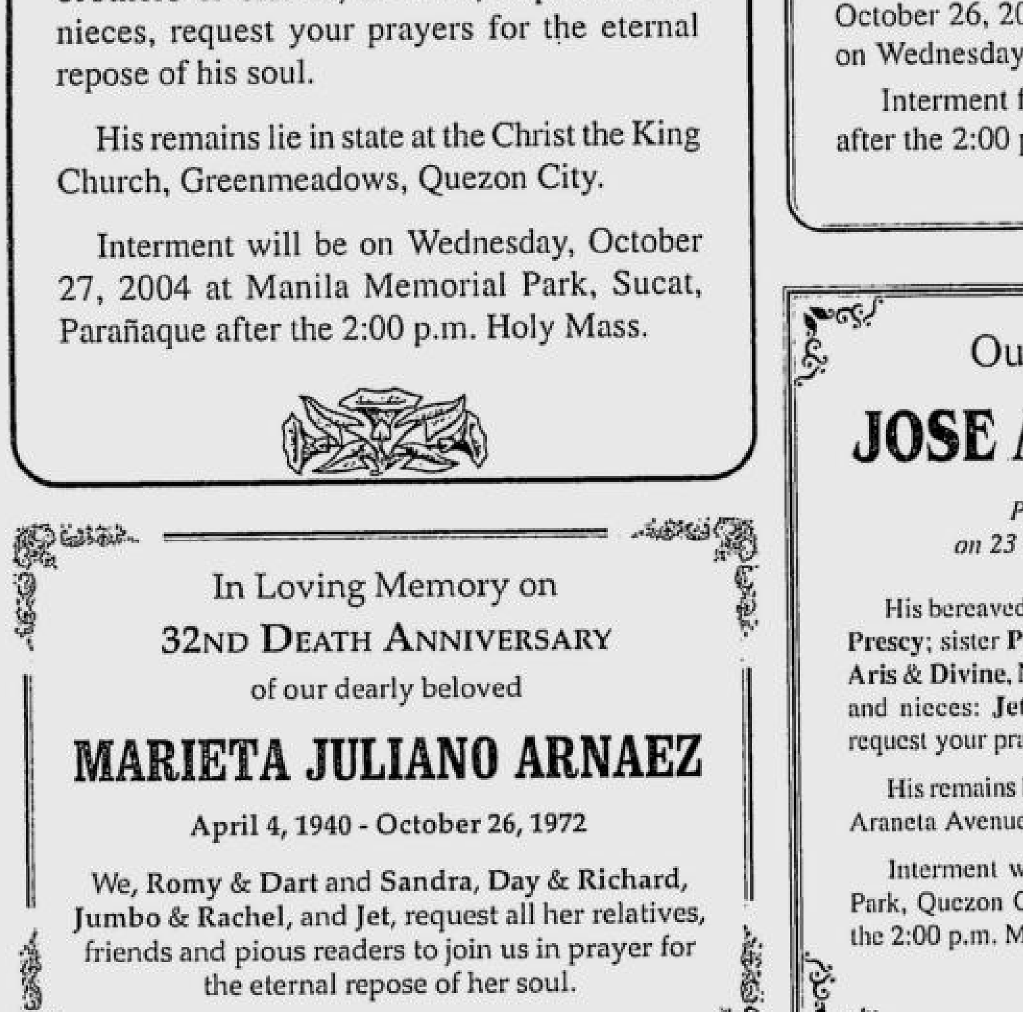
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS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PLAQUE OF SUPPORT
Vice President Noli L. de Castro, concurrent Chair of the Housing & Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), is shown being presented a plaque of support and appreciation by Chair Jose V. Manalad (5th from left) of the National Real Estate Association (NREA) during the closing rites of the NREA convention & exhibits recently. Others in the photo, (from left): NREA Sec. Gen. Marciano Ilagan and VP Raphael G. Baylon; HLURB CEO Buthc Fabul, HDMF President Miro Quimbo, NREA President Nestor S. Manglo, past presidents Dante V. Liban, Felino Palafox, Jr., and Reynaldo A. Carpio. Also present but not shown were PP Rolando Liao, VP Gilda Lim, VP Jose Rivas, EVP Manuel dela Cruz, lawyers Ruben Palacio, Jr. and Bercy Garcia. (RGB)

'Quo Vadis Philippine Cinema' in Up Close and Personal

THE OCT. 26 episode of Up Close and Personal on IBC 13, at 11 p.m., features the historical congress of film industry workers, Nagkakaisang Mangagawa sa Pelikulang Pilipino (NMPP). Also featured are new developments in Philippine Cinema provided by movie director Maryo J. De Los Reyes, on the possibility of reviving the Visayan film, Albert Martinez on Cinemalaya and Nick deOcampo on independent cinema. National artist for cinema director/scriptwriter Eddie Romero provided a strong inspiration through the speech he rendered during the 22nd FAP Awards. Up Close & Personal with Marissa Del Mar has been successful in this format that underscored the achievements of many celebrities in sports, the entertainment industry, businessmen, politicians and government people and more specially the common Pinoy. It is produced by Millicent Productions, Inc.

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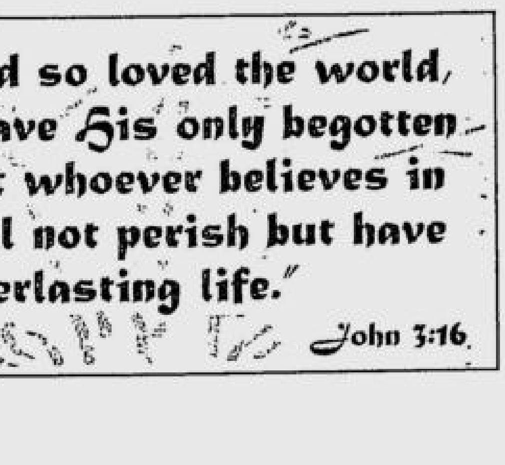

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Modern cure for eye problems

HAVE you been wearing glasses or contact lenses since you can remember? Tired of getting up in the morning to a blurred surrounding? Is your medicine cabinet full of contact lenses paraphernalia?

Then why not consider Lasik surgery? People who had undergone this modern procedure swear by it -- and have clearer and improved vision to prove it. Lasik, which is short for Laser In Situ Keratomileusis, is a surgical procedure that uses an excimer laser to reshape your eye's cornea. It is the most advanced form of treatment for nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. And you don't have to travel to other countries to benefit from it. This procedure is now, and has been, available in the country through the Asian Eye Institute (AEI) in Rockwell Center, Makati.

To those still not familiar with laser surgery, Dr. Robert Edward T. Ang who performs all of AEI's Lasik surgeries, provides an overview of the procedure: "In Lasik, we use a special device called microkeratome to create a thin corneal flap. This flap is retracted or "pulled back" so the laser can be applied on the remaining corneal base. The actual laser application takes only about thirty seconds. After that, the flap is returned to its original position. Laser surgery per eye will take only five minutes. It's really that easy and, aside from the immediate visual improvement, healing is fast. In fact, most patients can return to their regular. day-to-day activities a day or two after surgery."

Explaining further, he adds, "But not all eye problems are the same. That's why we use an advanced laser system that gathers and analyzes information about the patient's eye in order to provide a treatment that is customized to his or her specific eye details and problem. This customized treatment can result in better vision than glasses, contact lenses, or conventional laser. The special features of AEI's laser system allow us to even treat patients with complicated or irregular astigmatism. This laser has a three-dimensional eyetracker,' a special device that detects and follows a patient's eye movement to ensure accurate laser pulse placement during the entire procedure." In addition, the Iris Recognition technology detects and compensates for the change in eye alignment when the patient is sitting and lying down. Asian Eye is the only facility in the Philippines with that new laser.

But as no two pairs of eyes are alike, not all people with eye problems can be treated the same or can be candidates for laser surgery. "It's the first thing we do at AEI," reveals Dr. Ang. "A patient has to undergo lasik screening to enable us to evaluate his problem. Only after a thorough examination can we prescribe the best treatment to correct his vision".

And for people who passed the evaluation but have an aversion to operations, he assures that this brief and painless procedure has undergone extensive USFDA testing and investigation and is now considered by experts worldwide as a safe and effective surgical procedure. In addition, AEI has the most sterile laser environment in the country. We have a dedicated laminar flow air conditioning unit specifically designed for operating room use to keep possible contaminants in the air inside the refractive laser suite to a minimum."

With all these assurances no wonder AEI's Lasik surgery has revolutionized the country's eye care industry in so short a time. With this technology, many Filipinos and even patients from abroad now enjoy clearer vision that allows them to enjoy sports like golf, badminton, diving, swimming, trekking and rock climbing; experience the convenience in travel; freedom from allergies, eye redness, dry eyes caused by wearing contact lenses; and the accumulated cost of wearing glasses and contact lenses.

So stop fussing with those glasses and contact lenses. Be one of the many who are now enjoying a better quality of life.

Dr. Robert T. Ang specializes in Cornea and Refractive Surgery and Glaucoma. He finished his fellowship training at the Harvard Medical School's Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and has the most extensive experience in Zyoptix customized Lasik in the Philippines. For more information on Lasik surgery and other treatments for eye and vision problems, visit the Asian Eye Institute at the 9th and 10th floors of Phinma Plaza, Rockwell Center, Makati or call 8982020. E-mail:eyehelp@asianeyeinstitute.com. Website:www.asianeyeinstitute.com

PFIZER CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Lilia Bautista (3rd from left), former SEC Chair and recently-appointed Ambassador to Belgium cuts the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the Pfizer 50th Anniversary celebrations recently held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Flanking her are (from left): Pfizer regional president for Asia Alan Taylor, Philippine Daily Inquirer chair Marixi Prieto and Pfizer president and country manager Rey Gerardo Bacarro.

3RD UWAK CUP SOARS HIGH

Over 400 golfers recently converged at the West Course of the Wack Golf and Country Chapter for the much-anticipated 3rd Uwak Cup. The Wack Wack Golf and Country Club Ladies' Chapter organize the Uwak Cup annually. Proceeds of the event will go to the Wack Wack employees and caddies and various charitable institutions like St. Martin Porres Clinic and Mandaluyong General Hospital. Photo shows Chair Ben Abalos (middle) flanked by Wack Wack Ladies' Chapter members (standing, from left) Sylvia Montemayor, Melet Lao, Sylvia Singson, charrie Lim, Mabek Kawsek, Baby Herrera, Bing Liboro, Liza Lopez and Sohan Uy. Also in photo (front, kneeling, from left) are Elo Poblador, Caludette Santiago, Elo Campos and Joanne Lao.

Bits & Clips

Rite2004 all set

ASIA'S most comprehensive event for the retail industry, Rite2004 will be held at Suntec Singapore on Oct. 27 to 29. The only retail exhibition in Asia that provides the convenience of an all-in-one purchasing facility for retail-related businesses, Rite2004 also facilitates the free exchange of information among retail association and industry players. The event brings together top manufacturers and suppliers from across Asia, catering to the region's sourcing needs. For details, log on to www.riteexhibition.com.

SWI Great Bodies 2004

THE SEARCH is on for the Slimmers World International Great Bodies 2004. A formal press presentation of the final roster of candidates shall be done on Oct. 27. The night for the Slimmers World Great Bodies shall be on Dec. 17 a the Isla Ballroom of Shangri-La Plaza's Edza Plaza Hotel. This year's competition will be awarding over P200,000 each worth of cash and prizes to its lucky titleholders. For inquiries call the SWI marketing department at 843-0803.

Maryknoll homecoming

MARYKNOLL Sisters from all over the Asean region will be attending the Regional Conference on Oct. 21 to 26 in Tagaytay City. On Oct. 27, they will visit Miriam College for the Barrio Fiesta. For info, call the Miriam College External Affairs Office at 580-5400 to 29 extensions 1183 and 1186.

Serendra event

MODESTO "Mody" C. Malikmot Jr.'s exquisite Bonsai exhibit will open on the evening of Oct. 29, at the Serendra Pavilion in the Bonifacio Global City. This exhibit will feature thirty Bonsai pieces, all Philippine species. With Serendra District 1 now offering more garden view units, the Bonsai exhibit is for guests to get a feel of the tranquility that greenery can bring into the home. For inquiries, call 848-5000.

NEHS '62 reunion

THE GRADUATES OF Nueva Ecija High School batch 1962 will hold a grand reunion on Oct. 31, starting at 12 p.m. at Alessandra's Restaurant, Burgos Avenue, Cabanatuan City. For details, contact Tong Puno - (02)729-3239/0917-8144039; Oscar Deus - (02)637-9554/0917-8507940; Manuel Guerrero - 0917-5661526; Philip Bautista - 0918-9380068.

Prayer retreat

AN INTRODUCTION to Centering Prayer retreat will be held on Nov. 12 to 14, Friday 12 p.m. to Sunday 12 p.m. at the Marello Retreat House in Tagaytay City. For particulars, call 842-0201/817-7251/843-8291/843-8830.

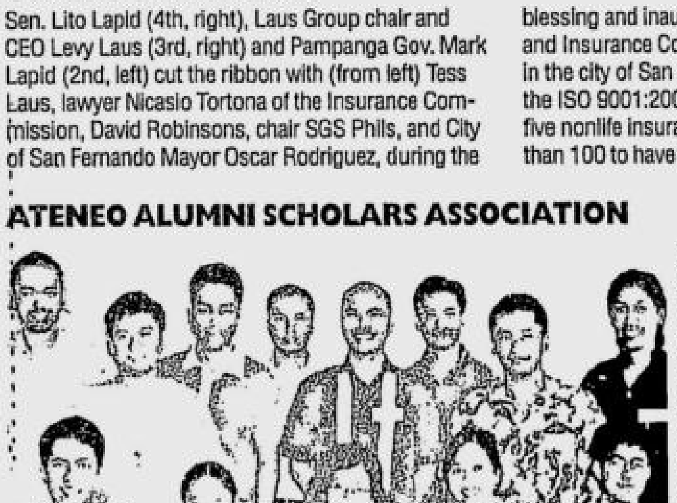
REAL-LIFE ROLE MODEL, REAL-LIFE STAR

Karel Ysabel Marquez, or simply Karel, started appearing in TV commercials and stage plays when she was only two years old. It was only two years ago when she finally convinced her mom to allow her to pursue her show biz career. Soon after, ABS-CBN signed her up as an exclusive talent. She had a stint at 'Berks', and is currently a regular at 'Asap' and 'Wazzup, Wazzup'. Karel became a regular fixture in TV commercials for different products. But her biggest break came when she was offered the VJ post at 'MYX' on Studio 23. It was there that she really shone, both as an entertainer and a celebrity. Surprisingly, Karel hates following trends and doesn't consider herself a fashionista. For her, styling and dressing up can be simple yet hip. Karel also does her own styling for most of her shows. She loves to experiment with her looks, depending on the character she's playing or the kind of show she's doing. The Bobson campaign for Karel focuses on her real life as a celebrity and a teenager. As one of the new endorsers of Bobson, Karel will be seen in her different moods and styles while living life to the fullest. She is the perfect choice to represent Bobson's image as hip, young, and stylish.

CGIC INAUGURATION

Sen. Lito Lapid (4th, right), Laus Group chair and CEO Levy Laus (3rd, right) and Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid (2nd, left) cut the ribbon with (from left) Tess Laus, lawyer Nicasio Tortona of the Insurance Commission, David Robinsons, chair SGS Phils, and City of San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, during the blessing and inauguration of the Corporate Guarantee and Insurance Co (CGIC) new corporate headquarters in the city of San Fernando. The event also celebrated the ISO 9001:2000 certification of CGIC, one of only five nonlife insurance firms out of the country's more than 100 to have received the coveted recognition.

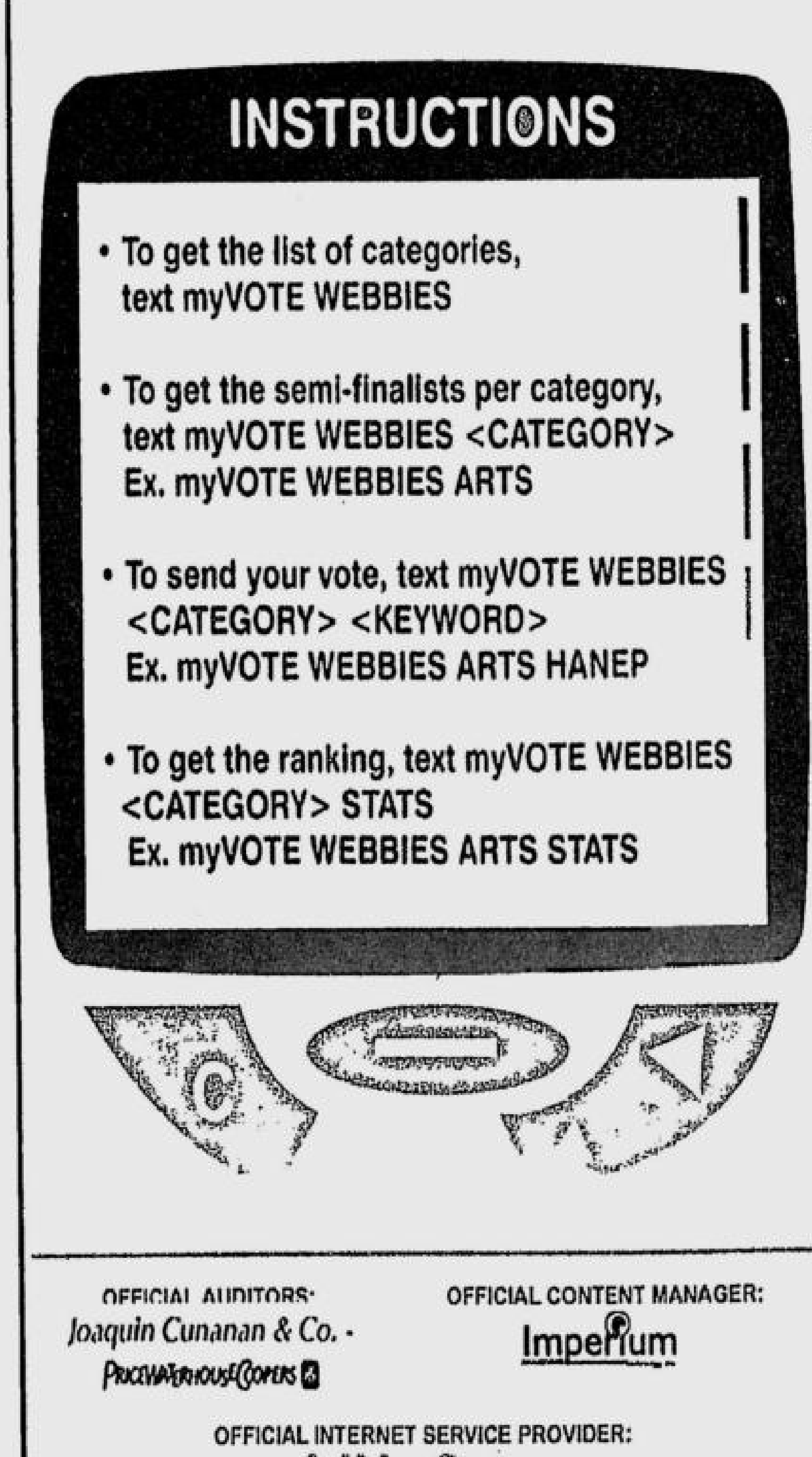
ATENEO ALUMNI SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION



The first homecoming of Ateneo alumni whose college scholarships were funded by the Ateneo Alumni Scholars Association (Aasa) was held at the Cervini Hall cafeteria. The occasion was graced by dean Rodolfo Ang of the John Gokongwei School of Management as guest speaker. The Aasa, established in 1987 by Fr. William H. Kreutz, SJ, has supported 64 scholars through college. The Aasa may be contacted through 426-6001 local 5156. It's office is on the 3rd floor of the Bellarmine Hall at the Loyola campus.

SAN BEDA COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH PHILJA

The signing of a consortium agreement between San Beda College and the Philippine Judicial Academy (Philja) of the Supreme Court of the Philippines was held at the Supreme Court Session Hall. Signing the consortium agreement was SBC rector-president Fr. Anscar J. Chupungco, OSB, Justice Amuerfina A. Melencio Herrera, Chancellor of Philja, and Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. Also present were: the administration officials and faculty of the Philippine Judicial Academy; Justices Ricardo Puno, Romeo Callejo, Antonio M. Martinez, Justices of the Court of Appeals and the Sandiganbayan; Dean Fr. Ranhilio C. Aquino, Head, Academic Affairs Office, Philja and concurrently dean of SBC Graduate School of Law; professor Ulpiano Sarmiento III, chair of the board of trustees of San Beda College, members of the board of trustees, and the administrators of SBC.



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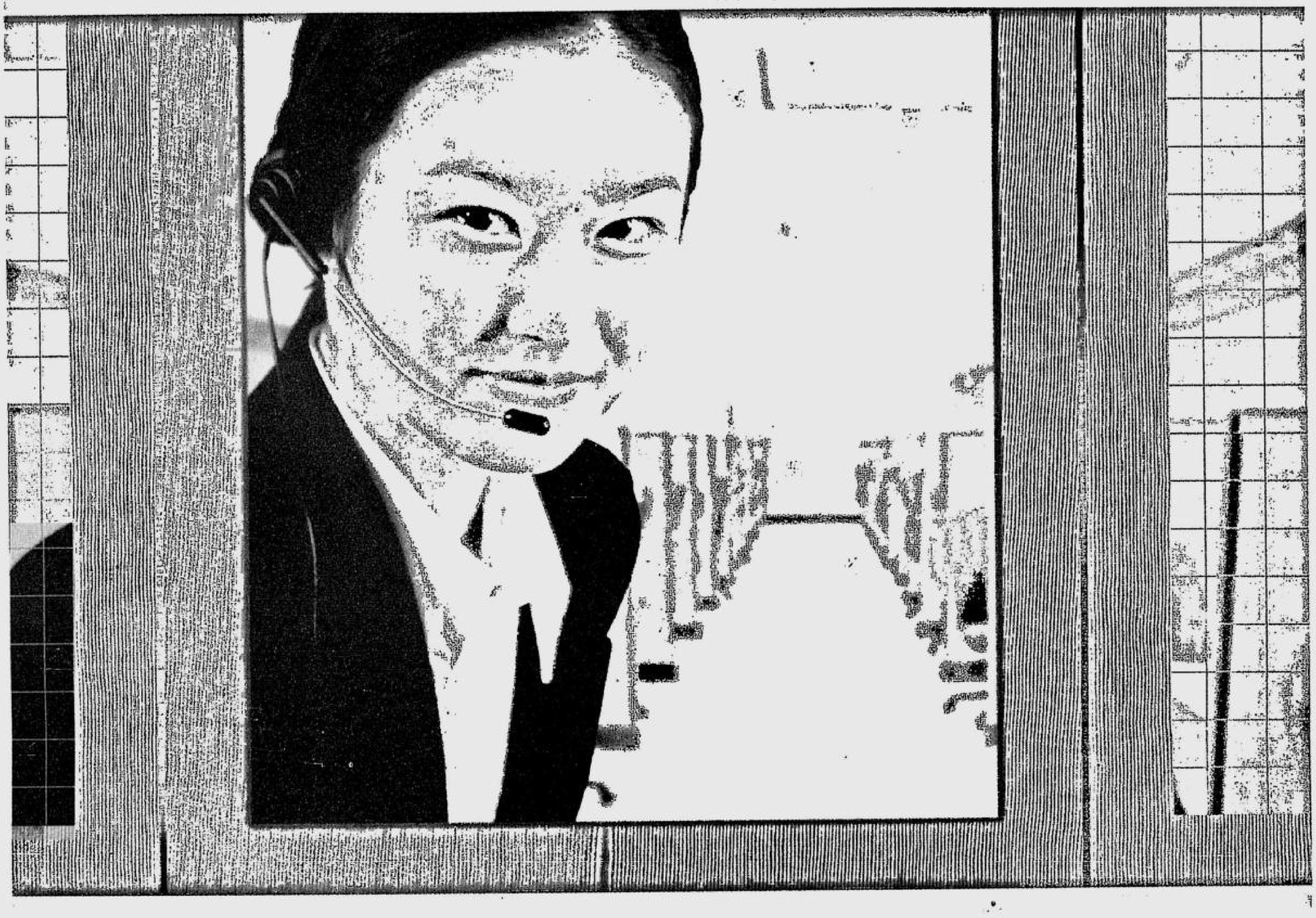

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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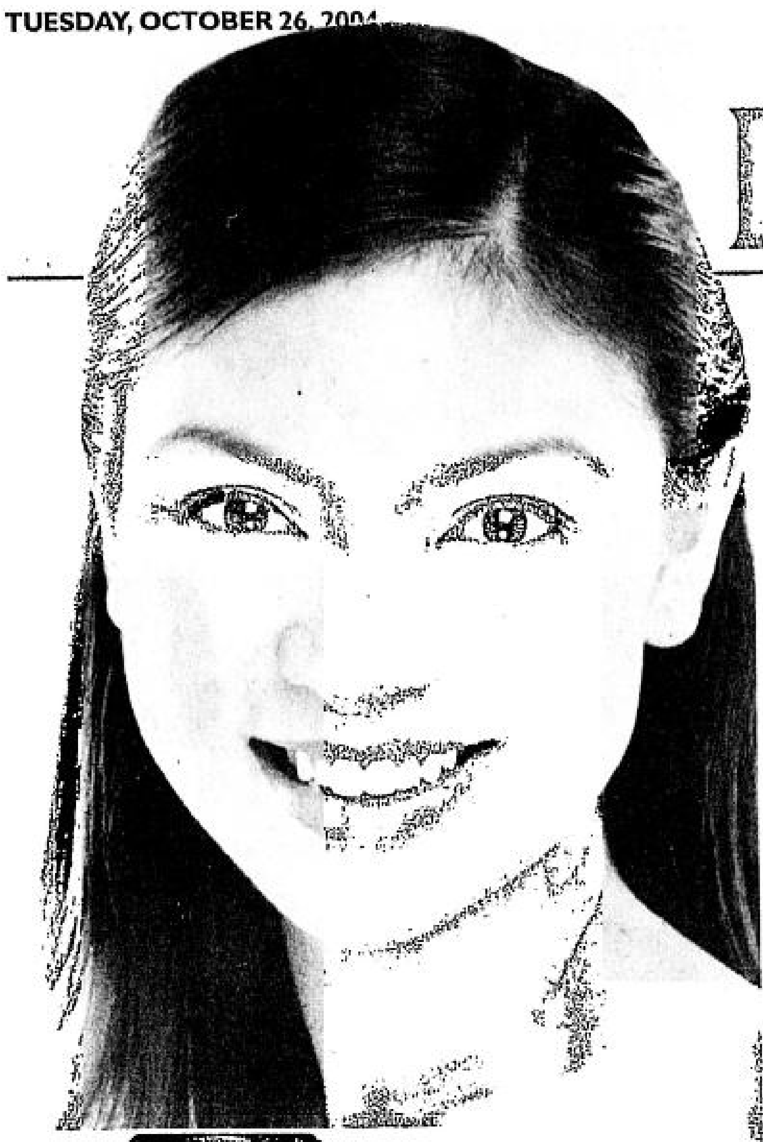
THURSDAY **FOOD** ◎ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**



Mineral powder: Foundation, concealer and finishing powder in one

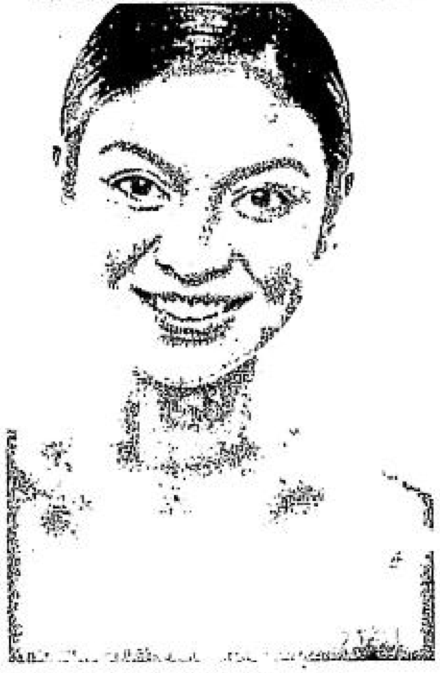
By Kitty Go
Contributor

THERE is a time to laugh and a time to cry. This is the way my relationship has been with makeup. When I put it on, people laugh at me and I cry in search of the best formulations. There is also no better time to test makeup than when you are in situations where you have to laugh or cry, or both, such as when you get a bad haircut or when you find out your son, who really does a good blow dry, is gay.

I did put to the test a new product in the market from Youngblood (YB) and I have to say it did leave me looking younger without spilling any blood (sweat and tears)—you'll know what I mean if you ever have plastic surgery or invasive facial treatments.

YB started as a cosmetic line formulated by Pauline Youngblood Soli, a paramedical aesthetician who assisted dermatologists and plastic surgeons. The line was created to be gentle but with enough

MINERAL/ C4



AJ spends a lot of time in the sun. Youngblood Mineral Cosmetics gives her beautiful, flawless coverage while protecting her skin.

> Youngblood was created to be gentle but with enough coverage to hide redness, veins and dark pigmentation

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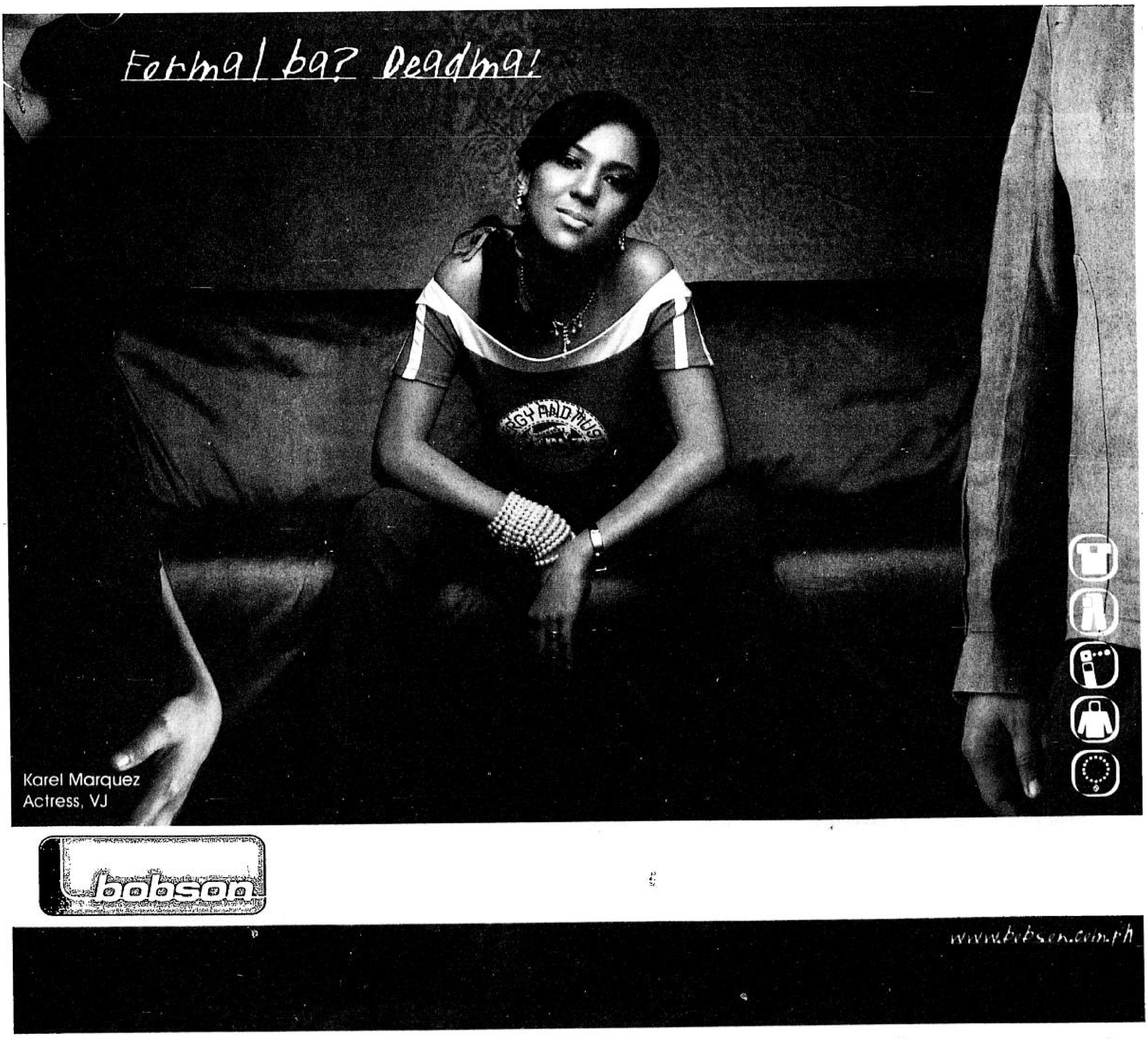

DIAL M for Martinis. Ultra high-style celebrators Jessica Puyat, Celine Lopez and Wendy Puyat Hotung with host, architect Chut Cuerva

PARTY chicks. Leah Puyat, young business gal Rose Montenegro and Celine Gabriel

CHILLING. Dish's top man, Philip Cu-Unjieng, with L'Oreal asset Leica Carpo and king of the nightlife, Louie Ysmael

FOOD columnist Heidi Ng, handsome Yannick Crespo and Lifestyle Asia's vivacious Lorraine Belmonte

STRANGERS on a Train. Xeng Zulueta, Norman Crisologo, JR Isaac and Astrud Crisologo

Hitchcock throws a party

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

IT'S no secret that this young miss with the 4Bs, better known as a brilliant, trailblazing, stylish Southern belle, **Celine Lopez**, really knows how to throw a super hot party.

For a recent bash that many members of our town's hip set hoped to be invited to, Celine decided on a chi-chi theme this time—"Alfred Hitchcock Presents Dial M for Martini!". The affair was in celebration of the birthday of the gang of three headturners: **Jessica Puyat**, **Wendy Puyat Hotung** and Celine, natch!. It was held at the sprawling digs in South Forbes of the parents of talented architect **Chut Cuerva**.

As we breezed in, every invitee was being "murdered" with cocktails named Psycho, Vertigo, Rear Window, Stranger on a Train (titles of Hitchcock's hit movies, in case you're not in the know, dahlings), made absolutely lethally delicious by Absolut and Alize.

It was fab seeing the invitees in cool vintage suits and cocktail outfits, proving that Cosmo Manille's party spirit is hardly dead, *palanggas*. Making this point were handsome realtor **Marco Antonio**, in fun conversation with our town's in-demand mega architect and interior designer, **Anton Mendoza**, together with in-laws, Rustan's young and hip shakers of U, **Joel Tantoco** and **Hindy Weber Tantoco**. They were enjoying the popular drink of the night, Psycho!

The celebrators looked di-vi-ne. Jessica wore a sleek basic black with beads ensemble, which she got on a recent trip abroad. As for her super pals, Wendy was in another chic black outfit by **Dennis Lustico** and Celine looked ultra-glam in her sassy **Rhett Eala** cocktail dress. These girls had their clothes designed for them and them alone, with an eye toward stopping the show. Mission accomplished, dahlings.

Adding more ambience to the theme party was interior decorator and stylist **Miguel Rosales**, whose magic touch did wonders with the decoration in the house.

With these three young misses, who exude flair and style, throwing this fete, it was only to be expected that fashion was the main thriller, *palanggas*.

Visiting newlyweds

I finally went to a dinner hosted by Manille's super renowned gourmet who can whip up an excellently prepared meal without batting an eyelash—young society entrepreneur **Lucille Carlos Locsin**, at her gorgeous home in upscale Dasmariñas Village.

I've been invited to several dinners Lucille gave in the past but unfortunately never made it. This time, I sent my regrets to the other affairs I was invited to, making sure I didn't miss this one.

The informal, super fun dinner was for beautiful couple **Mai-Mai Cojuangco** and her husband, **Andrea Zini**, who were in town for a short visit, and the Cojuangco clan, *palanggas*.

Our hostess with the mostest served her famous Chinese fresh *lumpia*. Everyone who has tried it can't say enough about how yummy it is. And they are so right.

Lucille, together with her husband, popular businessman and Nissan's rent-a-car service top gun, **Nick Locsin**, showed us how to eat the *lumpia* by preparing it ourselves from all the cooked ingredients in front of us.

Well, that was just for starters, dahlings. Next came delicious congee flown in from Hunan-ham in Shanghai and chorizo de Macao, then the to-die-for Pata Tim that melted in your mouth. It was followed by the superbly prepared Steamed Lapu-Lapu and, lastly, the dried shredded pork and century egg. There was also a table full of exotic fruits and cakes she baked herself.

Saying our thank yous and goodbyes after the excellent gastronomic feast, we all—and I mean all—promised not to eat a full meal the next day.

The lesson: If you are lucky enough to be invited to a Lucille dinner, grab it, *palanggas*!

HK's 'Hilton Sisters'

Popular sisters two, better known in Cosmo Manille as the Hilton Sisters of Hong Kong, since they are hotel heiresses as well as being both absolutely vivacious, worldly, chic and stylish, **Shirley Sadhwani Hiranand** and **Jasmin "Reyna" Sadhwani Harilela**, were in Manila recently.

Needless to say, they were seen at only the best restaurants, clubs and tap dancing places, being entertained by many of their close Manille friends. Toward the end of their four-day stay, Shirley (she has not been back in Manille for 10 years and was completely amazed by how the city has changed for the better and has become "so international") and Reyna (a frequent visitor) were feted endlessly with lunches, dinners and cocktails.

The Sadhwani girls were born in Bacolod and raised in Manille. They married cousins **Manesh Harilela** and **Harry Hiranand**, and settled in Hong Kong where their tycoon husbands run their vast business empires.

COSMO Manille's loss and Hong Kong's gain, the divine Sadhwani sisters, Jasmin "Reyna" S. Harilela and Shirley S. Hiranand

RUSTAN'S beauty, Mariko Jacinto, with hip interior designer and stylist Miguel Rosales

VERTIGO pals. Pepper Teehankee, newlywed Cary Lagdameo, hip realtor Marco Antonio and art connoisseur Patrick Reyno

THE BEAUTIFUL pack. Handsome TJ Trinidad with fun Chukri Prieto, attractive Yasmin Baumann, gorgeous miss with the 4Bs Geni Psinakis, and cool Mark Baumann

BEAUTIFUL to look at. Ginger Ignacio, with sisters AM and Tanya Moreno and her love, good-looking southern gent Quad de la Paz

ENTREPRENEUR Raul Manzano

WORLD travelers Chingbee Kalaw C. and her husband, Bobbie Cuenca

REAR Window gang. Cool Davaoeño Manny del Rosario with Joey Carpo, health buff Jonjon Rufino, architect Dan Lichauco and super fun Lem Carlos, who is visiting from Texas

MAN and models. Super headturner Nic Bell with international businessman Jacques Dupasquier and his lady love, attractive model Rachel Soriano

FUN Toffer Vidal with mother-to-be Pia Cojuangco Guingona

HOSTS of the fun dinner, Lucille Carlos L. and husband, mega businessman Nick Locsin, with guests of honor Andrea and Mai Mai C. Zini and cool Ting Ting Cojuangco

ALL in the *famille*. Peping Cojuangco with daughter, Dr. Liaa C. Bautista, and brother-in-law, top photographer Jojo Guingona

Wonder drinks

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

IN THE SEARCH for more effective ways to fight infection and boost the immune system, it has been discovered that some of the most potent remedies come from nature—fruits and vegetables.

Here are some wonder drinks that can improve the quality of your life.

Coconut water

The humble coconut was revered for centuries as a wonder food while also considered a traditional remedy for some health problems. Herbalist James A. Duke cites the use of coconut and its oil as folk remedies for a variety of diseases: bacterial and yeast infections, colds, constipation, cough, fever, tumors, toothache, sore throat, dysmenorrhea (painful menstruation), typhoid fever, gonorrhea, nausea, asthma, etc.

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

There is even a story about a woman with cataracts who found relief from her problem by applying fresh coconut water in her eyes.*

Weight loss/energy booster

Ingredients:

One glass of fresh coconut water
1 tablespoon of virgin coconut oil

Mix well and drink before you start your morning. This will rev up your system, increase metabolism and give you added energy. The natural anti-bacterial properties of coco oil will also protect your body from illness.

If you make this your daily regimen even for just a week, you will feel a change in your vitality and mood.

Goji juice

Dr. Earl Mindell, who wrote the famous "Vitamin Bible" and is renowned for his passionate search for higher nutrition, introduces a drink from the Himalayan mountains.

It is said that in the Tang Dynasty (800 A.D.), a well was dug for a Buddhist temple. The well was covered with goji vines. Over the years, berries from the vine fell into the well. It was observed that everyone who drank the water from the well experienced an improvement in their health and better complexion.

In his book "Goji, The Himalayan Health Secret," Mindell reveals the secret to healthy aging. His study of longevity and nutrition shows that many of the longest-living people have something in common—they eat a small red fruit called goji. The berry contains high levels of master molecules called bioactive polysaccharides that defend the body against pollutants, free radicals (highly active and damaging substances) and disease.

Dr. Mindell will conduct a health forum at 12 noon, Nov. 5, at the Manila Hotel. Open to the public, the forum is organized by Dr. Josef de Ubaldo, PhD. Call 0927-9154092.

Ampalaya Plus

A health enthusiast, businessman Louie Chincuanco is now promoting his newly-discovered juice concoction. His vegetable-fruit combination has relieved his health problems like overweight, skin outbreaks, migraine. Many who have followed his regimen say they have been cured of psoriasis, hypertension, constipation, asthma, arthritis, etc.

Health drink

On an empty stomach, take one tablespoon of apple cider vinegar (preferably organic like Braggs or native cane vinegar/*paombong*) mixed in one glass of purified water. Drink this special concoction:

Ingredients:
½ fresh *ampalaya*
½ green bell pepper
½ green/red apple
½ cucumber (peeled/seeded)
2 cloves fresh garlic

Put all ingredients in a blender and drink when smooth. Beginners may strain the fibrous parts and just take the liquid. This may be taken on a trial basis until the health problem disappears. "Converts" attest to its beneficial effects.

For free health handouts, call 7111156 to 58.

Health, beauty regimen

Dab some virgin coco oil on the face to remove makeup. Rinse with your favorite cleanser. Then add a drop or two of coco oil as moisturizer. You will have silky smooth skin when you wake up in the morning.

Uplifting affirmation

"I am centered, nothing and no one can disturb my inner peace, and this is so."

Love and light!

Source: "The Healing Miracles of Coconut Oil," by Bruce Fife, MD

> Some of the most potent remedies come from fruits and veggies

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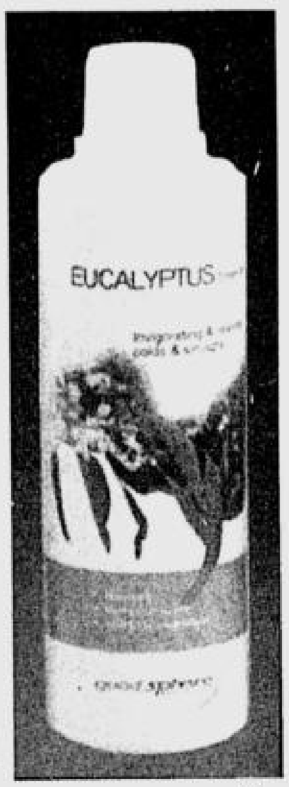


Children suffer the most from bad indoor air

In the Philippines, asthma affects some 8 million children. The country is ranked 32nd in "self-reported asthma" with a prevalence rate of about 12 percent.

A recent study showed that about 12.4 percent of children aged 14-15 years old are afflicted with asthma. Over all, one out of 10 Filipinos have asthma, based on a Philippine General Hospital survey.

Is it true that the symptoms of asthma can be lessened down even without medication? The answer is YES. And one of the best ways to achieve this is with the use of an aroma therapeutic air purifying system.

The Goodsphere™ Revitalizing System is a revolutionary aroma therapeutic air purifying system. It does not use filters, chalk cartridges, or chemical additives.

The essences used are derived from natural botanical extracts which are 100% biodegradable, and contain antibacterial and anti-fungal properties.

One such essence in Goodsphere's line is eucalyptus. Eucalyptus has been proven to effectively prevent and ease attacks of asthma.

One of the most enduring medical uses for eucalyptus and not surprisingly, one of the best substantiated, is its power to ease nasal congestion and quell cough.

Health is wealth! Enjoy good health and create an environmentally friendly living space with Goodsphere™ Revitalizer.

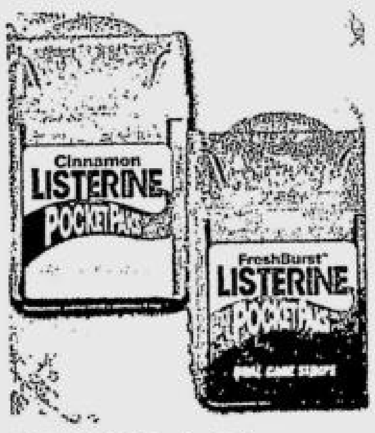
goodsphere™ ESSENCES

Available at True Value, Automatic Center and Sogo Home and Office Center For more details call 3737396-97, 3737399, email goodsphere@iajcorp.com or visit www.iajcorp.com

Advt.

Two new breath freshener flavors

PFIZER Consumer Healthcare, maker of CoolMint Listerine PocketPaks portable oral care, introduces two flavors—non-mint Cinnamon and spearmint FreshBurst.


Cinnamon LISTERINE PocketPaks
FreshBurst LISTERINE PocketPaks
ORAL CARE STRIPS

LISTERINE PocketPaks

The new flavors of Listerine PocketPaks provide the same benefits as the original CoolMint, leaving a cool sensation in the mouth as it fights bad breath germs.

Listerine PocketPaks dissolves instantly and releases germ-killing ingredients. It is supposed to kill 99.9 percent of bad breath-causing germs on contact and clinically proven to control bad breath. The oral care strips are also sugar and calorie-free.

The new Cinnamon and FreshBurst flavors will soon be available in supermarkets, drugstores and convenience stores nationwide in 24 strips. They will cost the same as CoolMint Listerine—P85 for one PocketPaks and P190 for a pack of three.

Help for insomniacs

PEOPLE suffering from insomnia may want to try Better Sleep, a 100 percent all-natural extract of a rare medicinal mushroom called Leizenzi.

The mushroom reportedly acts as a tranquilizer and sedative to help improve a person's sleeping cycle. It is also said to enhance brain function by improving memory, increase energy, reduce stress and protect the brain.

Better Sleep, approved by the Bureau of Food and Drug, is supposed to be all natural, non-narcotic and non-addictive. It is a recipient of the National Consumer Affairs Foundation's award for Outstanding Herbal Food Supplement for Insomnia.

The product is available at Mercury Drugstores, Watsons, Manson Drug, Savemore Drug, Emmaflor Drug, St. Anthony's Drug, selected Bioessence, Facial Plus and Facial House outlets and other leading drugstores. Call 7234376, 7214376 or text 0918-9349347, or visit www.betterherbsinc.com.

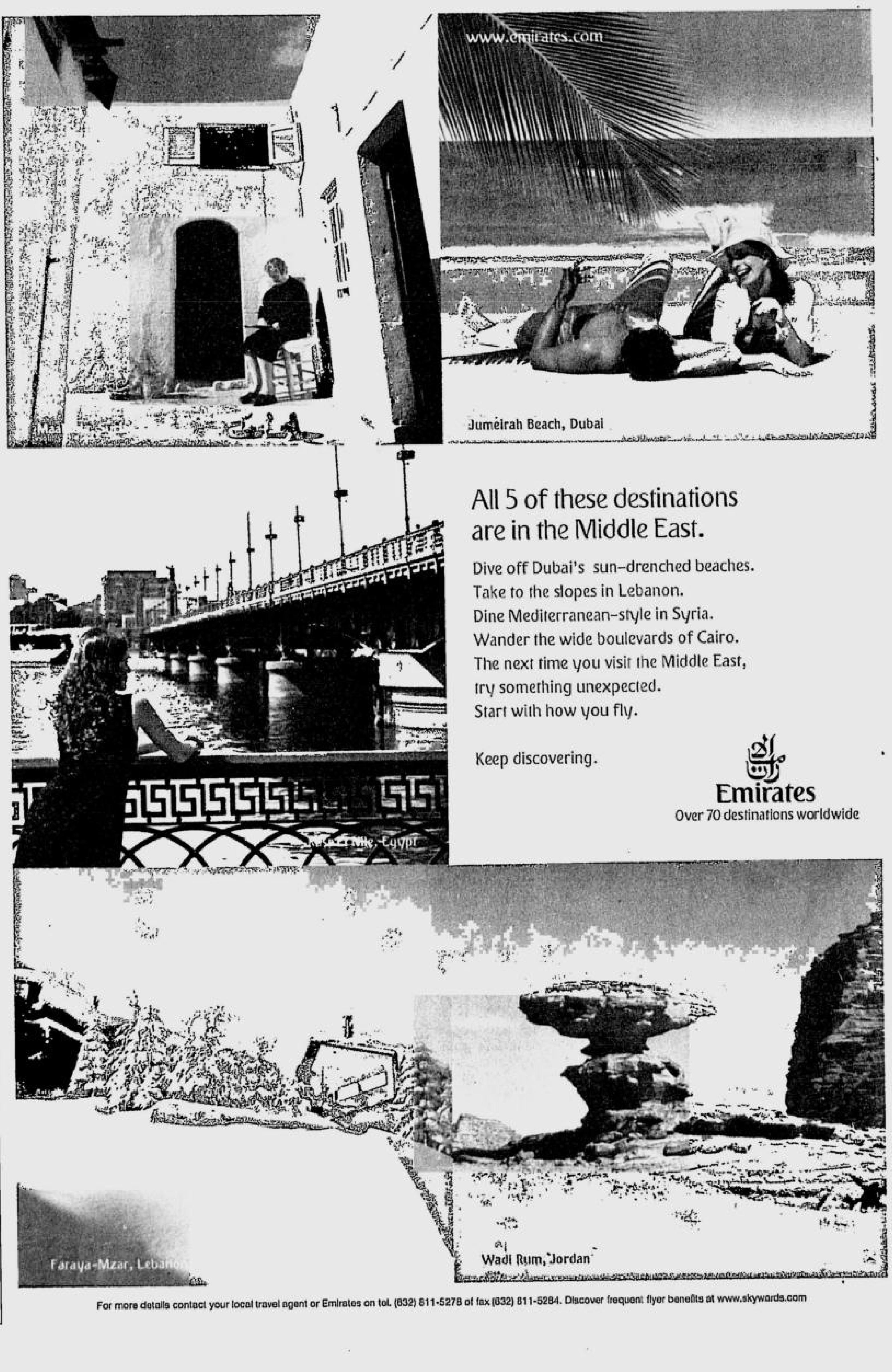
Estrogen-free pill now in the market

ORGANON Phils. Inc. launched recently a unique estrogen-free oral contraceptive pill. The new product, containing only one female hormone, the progestogen Desogestrel (75 mcg), was developed to give women who cannot or should not use pills containing estrogens, a choice.

Some women suffer from side effects like breast tension, nausea, edema and, headache when they use pills with estrogen. The pills are also not recommended for breast feeding women.

Desogestrel is a simple, continuous 28-day tablet regimen. It is now available in leading drugstores nationwide.

E-mail cerazette@organon.ph or text 0917-8523350.



All 5 of these destinations are in the Middle East.

Dive off Dubai's sun-drenched beaches.
Take to the slopes in Lebanon.
Dine Mediterranean-style in Syria.
Wander the wide boulevards of Cairo.
The next time you visit the Middle East,
try something unexpected.
Start with how you fly.

Keep discovering.

Emirates
Over 70 destinations worldwide

For more details contact your local travel agent or Emirates on tel. (632) 811-5278 of fax (632) 811-5284. Discover frequent flyer benefits at www.skywards.com

VITA ACE beauty cap moisturizes and protects the skin to maintain and enhance its natural beauty and radiance.

VITA Velvet anti-aging ampoule reduces visible aging signs and revives skin's elasticity and suppleness.

A SOOTHING facial mask locks in the anti-aging nutrients of Vita Velvet.

A PAMPERING massage completes the Vita Velvet anti-aging regimen as it calms the senses.

Improve your 'face value'

VITA Spa facial treatment products

By Joyce C. Abaño

GET rid of tired-looking skin and have the freshest face possible.

Facial Care Centre launched recently two Vita Spa facial treatments that give the full benefit of a thorough facial complete with a rejuvenating massage to help you acquire a whole new glow.

"The Vita Spa treatment that we launched a few weeks ago is one of our top-selling services at the moment and there are two types: the Vita ACE treatment and the Vita Velvet treatment," said Aivee Crawley, Facial Care Centre Makati branch manager.

"Both treatments are really good for the skin," she added. "And they make your skin glow and radiant [and] nourish it [as well], making your skin beautiful after the treatment, and showing dramatic effects later."

More intense

Crawley said the Vita ACE facial treatment takes an hour while the Vita Velvet takes about an hour and a half. "The Vita Velvet treatment is more intense, that's why it takes a little bit longer to finish," Crawley explained.

The Vita ACE treatment replenishes and maintains the skin's natural moisture and radiance to prevent the early onset of aging. It also moisturizes, protects and strengthens the skin's defenses.

The treatment supplies the skin high concentrations of vitamins A, C and E that serve as antioxidants and help shield the skin from harmful elements like stress, aging, pollution, smog and ultra violet rays that not only damage skin tissues but also make the texture of the skin dull and rough.

Anti-aging treatment

The Vita Velvet treatment revitalizes the skin with a special reformulated anti-aging ampoule specifically developed to reduce visible signs of aging. The soothing facial mask allows anti-aging nutrients to penetrate the skin. The effects also last longer.

Both facial treatments are equally soothing to the senses.

A relaxing massage completes the treatment.

"The Vita Spa facial treatments are safe choices," Crawley said. "But we don't give this to people with intense skin breakouts—we give an alternative cleansing treatment."

Facial treatments are considered essential to any skin care regimen. They help maintain the skin and avoid future problems. But finding the right facial treatment is a challenge. It is important to be sure that a facial center knows what it is doing.

Facial Care Centre's dermatologists always check a clients' skin type before deciding on what procedure to follow. This helps ensure that the treatment is suitable to the client.

Facial Care Centre Makati is located at GT Tower, 6813 Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. de la Costa St., Salcedo Village. Call 8161259 or 8153121.

Mineral powder: Foundation, concealer and finishing powder in one

From page C1

coverage to hide redness, veins and dark pigmentation on faces of patients of rosacea, laser, microdermabrasion and chemical peels.

A test of faith

After working on another beauty story for the INQUIRER, makeup artist Barbie Chan put on Youngblood Natural Mineral Foundation (P1,775, available at all Beauty Bars) to cover rashes on my chin from—would you believe—using the wrong toothpaste!

CAR has mature skin with visible circles under the eyes. Her Youngblood look is dramatic and gives her a youthful appearance.

The strange thing was that this "foundation" looked like loose powder but was in reality a concentrated mineral powder formulation that could be applied with a sponge for heavier coverage, a brush for light coverage and even mixed with moisturizer or sunscreen to become liquid. It is a water-resistant foundation, concealer and finishing powder in one!

She applied the powder on my chin using a dry latex sponge and told me that a little under my eyes would help and that with this foundation, I wouldn't need concealer. Suuurree... I thought... this thing was going to flake off by the time Barbie left me with lipstick tester in hand, which I would later wish was a gun.

As I always do at a time of desperation (that day I just had to buy a single pan of Sue Devitt eyeshadow), I left the store with a bill equal to the debt of Cuba and, of course, without the one item that I really needed. But I did take home a canister of YB Mineral Foundation, which was the best thing that ever happened to my face since the burqua.

The foundation was put to the all-night drink test at Rastro's. By the time I got home after midnight, there was still no sign of redness on my chin or darkness under my eyes. Perhaps I was too drunk to see straight or, a bigger perhaps, the key was in the application and obviously Barbie, being a pro, would do a better job than me any day, sober or not.

The kiss-proof test

The next test came the following evening at the cocktail launch of Benpres Publishing's new society magazine, MetroSociety. Boys and girls, if you are looking for a major daahllin', kissy-poo affair with enough air kisses to launch another Chinese astronaut into space, this was it. What better occasion to test out your new magic powder foundation and YB Lip Shine in Smitten? (This lip color, P775, although great alone, is the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of lip colors—when worn over vampire red, it easily turns into coquette pink.)

I wore nothing but YB Natural Mineral Foundation, mascara (P775) and YB Lip Shine in Smitten with Philosophy lipstick in Compassion (yet another item I didn't need that led to my Cuban debt). I also didn't need a touch-up when one of the editors, Raul Manzano, and photographer Patrick Uy called for pictures. And still didn't need to raise a puff to my nose by dinner.

There were two words I used whenever I heard the price of an expensive face cream. I also used the same two words when my dermatologist gave me a hydrocortisone injection on my face. And that night, when I got home, I had to say the same two words in amazement: Jesus H. Christ!

Nina Montelibano, marketing officer of Beauty Bar, said since its delivery this month, the Youngblood line had been selling briskly with no advertising or press. The products speak for themselves and the unretouched photo display of the "before" and "after" looks is a strong sales tool.

Beauty Bar used regular people made up by Barbie Chan, instead of professional models to illustrate the products' efficacy. Each Beauty Bar has a resident makeup artist who can teach customers application techniques and help them choose colors.

More multi-use products

The YB foundation also comes in the portable Mineral Compact Foundation (P1,975). Other fabulous multi-use products, which I stupidly did not buy because I was too busy running up the debt of Cuba with other things I didn't really need, are Mineral Rice Setting Powder (P995), Crushed Mineral Blush (P895) and Lunar Dust (P1,395). The rice and cornstarch-based Mineral Rice Setting Powder is not only a finisher, color corrector and mixer but also a primer before any foundation. As a primer, it absorbs excess oil on the face so any makeup base goes on smoothly.

Crushed Mineral Blush can be used not only on cheeks but also on eyes and lips when blended with lip balm or gloss. Crushed Mineral Eyeshadow (P850) can likewise be used as blush or lip color. Lunar Dust can be used alone as an all-over powder bronzer, with body moisturizer for a subtle glow or with foundation for extra radiance.

Useful makeup tips and more product information can be found at www.ybskin.com.

E-mail the author at kittygo_pdi@yahoo.com.

YOUNGBLOOD Mineral Cosmetics enhances and protects Anna's skin without her spending too much time on makeup application.

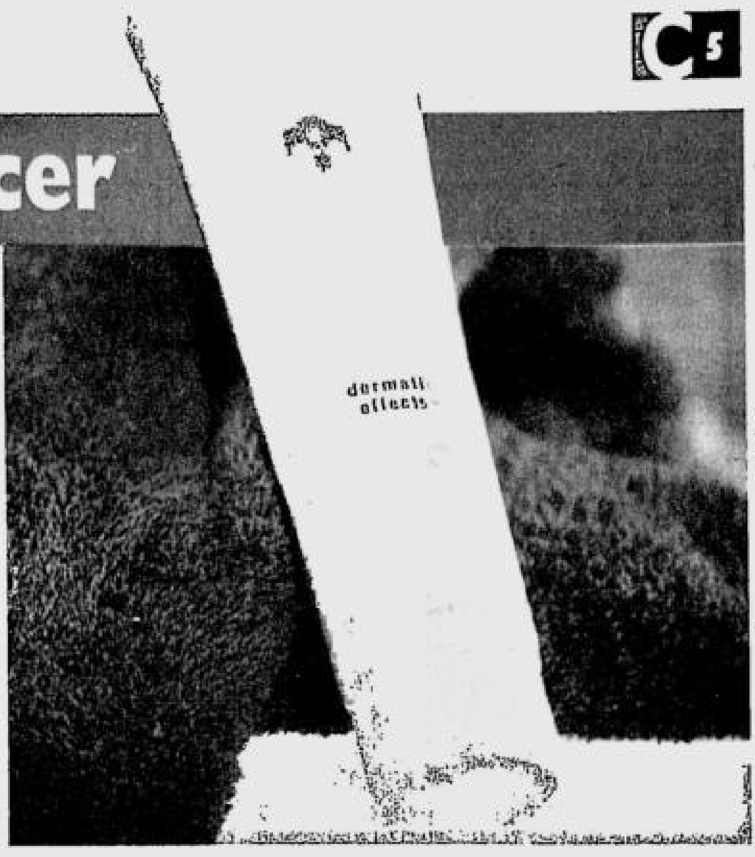
Health, beauty enhancer

OLAY
OLAY
OLAY
OLAY
OLAY
OLAY daily facials
OLAY

OLAY skin care products are enriched with Vitamins E, A and B3 for gentle cleansing. They keep in moisture without leaving a heavy residue. Available in supermarkets and department stores nationwide.

the Essence of Play
Nutri.

E. EXCEL offers The Essence of Play concentrated drink and Nutrifresh powdered drink mix for kids. The Essence of Play has bee pollen, mulberry leaf, ginseng leaf and a medley of fruit juices. Nutrifresh is a good source of plant-based protein. Call 8110837.



NU SKIN Enterprises, Inc. has products to relieve cellulite. Among these are Galvanic Spa System II Body Conductor, Body Shaping Gel and Dermatic Effects Contouring Lotion. Call 6890333.

Carefree fresh
Carefree fresh
Carefree fresh
Carefree fresh

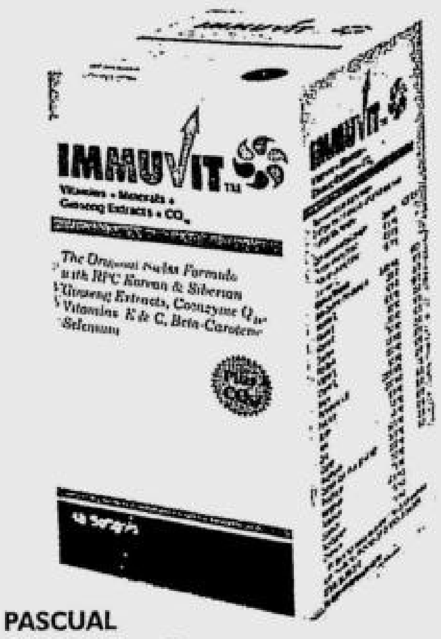
CAREFREE introduces New Carefree Fresh panty liners in four designs. The liners come in convenient and hassle-free mini flip-top boxes. Carefree Fresh is ultra-thin and helps keep you feeling clean, confident and fresh all day, every day.

PHYSIOGEL Cream
PHYSIOGEL Cream

PHYSIOGEL Cream contains DMS concentrate, which helps neutralize moisture loss. Its derma-membrane structure enables the cream to transport the beneficial lipids and ceramides into the deep layers of the skin. Available at Mercury Drug and other retail outlets in the country.

GINSOMIN
Korean Panax Ginseng Extract
Capsules

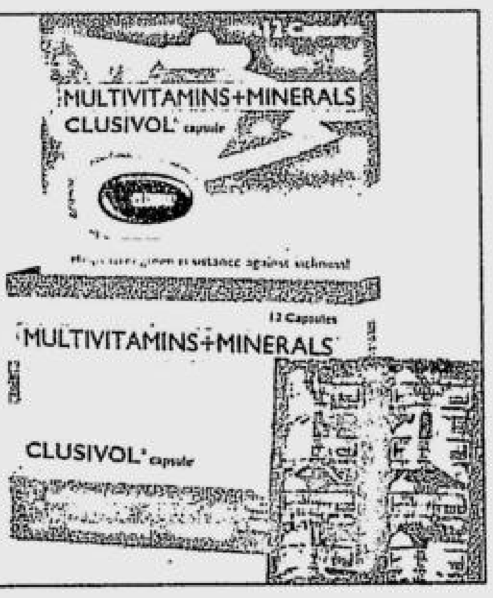
GINSOMIN is a health supplement that helps increase energy and improve one's ability to cope with stress. It contains 50-mg extract of Korean Panax ginseng, vitamins B complex, C and E and beta-carotene, selenium and zinc. Available in Mercury Drugstore and other leading drugstores nationwide.



PASCUAL Laboratories offers Immuvit, a multivitamin fortified with Korean and Siberian ginsengs, Coenzyme Q10 and selenium.

NO FLUORIDE
SansFluo
NO FLUORIDE
SansFluo

SANSFLUO is a specially-formulated toothpaste for infants and kids. It is fluoride-free and non-foaming and contains an all-natural aloe vera extract that helps keep a child's gums healthy. The toothpaste comes in orange and strawberry flavors. Available in Mercury Drug outlets, Rustan's, Robinsons, Landmark, Babyland and Infanticipation.



CLUSIVOL contains vitamins and minerals that help strengthen and defend the body from sickness. Each capsule has vitamins A, D, C, E, B1, B2, B6 and B12, niacinamide, D-panthenol, iron, calcium, manganese, zinc and magnesium.

FAST ACTING!
PROSTATOL

HAMIDA Pharma introduces Prostatol, a product designed to help protect the prostate from damage due to bacteria, viruses, toxins and free radicals. The product contains lycopene, pumpkin seed, pineapple stem and licorice extracts. Available at Kinetics Philippines. Call 8841341.

Better prevention, treatment of epilepsy urged

THE GLOBAL Campaign against Epilepsy is urging governments to improve treatment, services and prevention of epilepsy in the Western Pacific Region, including the Philippines.

A new report of the World Health Organization says, in developing countries, about 70-90 percent of people with epilepsy do not receive appropriate treatment or care.

Epilepsy is the most serious common neurological disorder. A conservative estimate puts the number of people with the condition throughout the world at 50 million. Some 80 percent of epilepsy sufferers are believed to be in developing countries.

The report "Epilepsy in the Western Pacific Region: A call to action" launched in Beijing recently urges governments, international and regional organizations and nongovernmental organizations to implement and support actions in six areas. These are public education, community-based control and prevention programs, legislative reform, investment in research, lay and professional epilepsy organizations information exchange, and inter-country cooperation.

Dr. Wang Xiangdong, adviser on mental health of the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO), stressed that epilepsy was preventable and treatable with relatively safe and inexpensive drugs.

"Cultural attitudes, lack of policy prioritization, poor health systems and inadequate supply of anti-epileptic drugs are barriers to appropriate treatment," he said.

Dr. Wang said the problem caused enormous physical, psychological, social and economic burdens on individuals, families and countries, especially due to misunderstanding, fear and stigma. He added that the problems were greatest in the developing world.

Dr. Wang said effective and cost-efficient treatments were available. If properly treated, up to 70 percent of people with the condition could live productive and fulfilling lives, free from seizures.

The report summarizes the current situation concerning epilepsy, its public health impact, past and present activities in community-based control, and directions for further action. It was developed by WPRO, WHO headquarters, International League against Epilepsy and the International Bureau for Epilepsy.

No

sweet

talk.

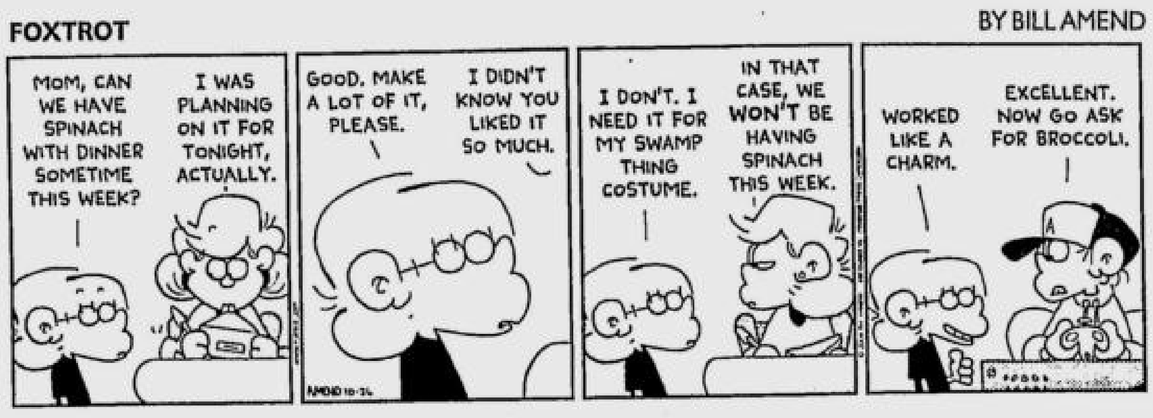
Coca-Cola light
Coca-Cola light
Sprite
Royal

The drinks pictured above
are for the health-conscious.

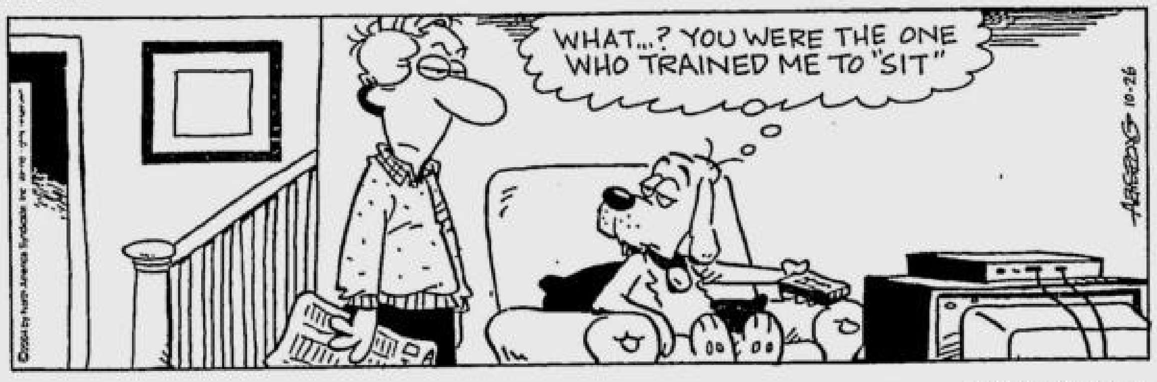
Low calorie, and like this ad,
completely sugar free.

"Coca-Cola light", "Royal", "Sprite", and the Dynamic Ribbon device are trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company. © 2004 The Coca-Cola Company

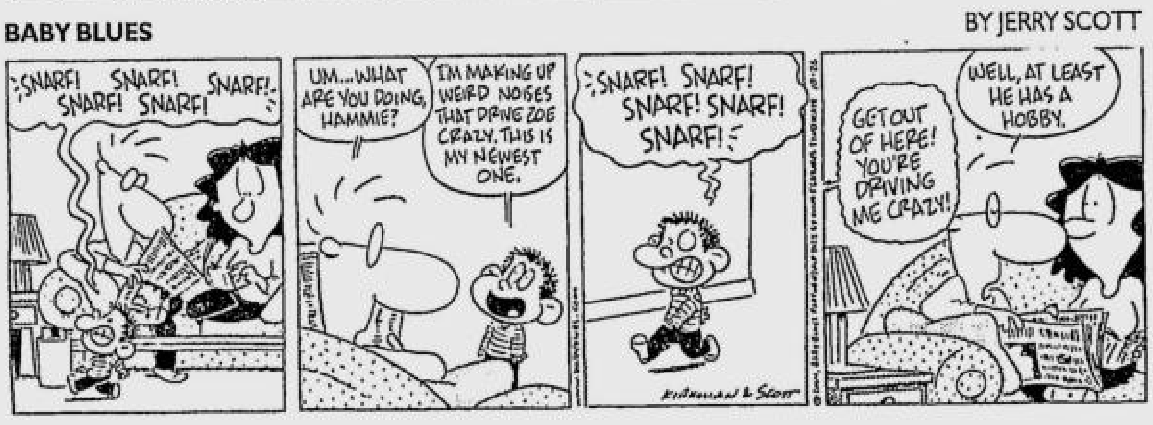
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


MOM, CAN WE HAVE SPINACH WITH DINNER SOMETIME THIS WEEK?
I WAS PLANNING ON IT FOR TONIGHT, ACTUALLY.
GOOD. MAKE A LOT OF IT, PLEASE.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LIKED IT SO MUCH.
I DON'T. I NEED IT FOR MY SWAMP THING COSTUME.
IN THAT CASE, WE WON'T BE HAVING SPINACH THIS WEEK.
WORKED LIKE A CHARM.
EXCELLENT. NOW GO ASK FOR BROCCOLI.
AMEND 10-26

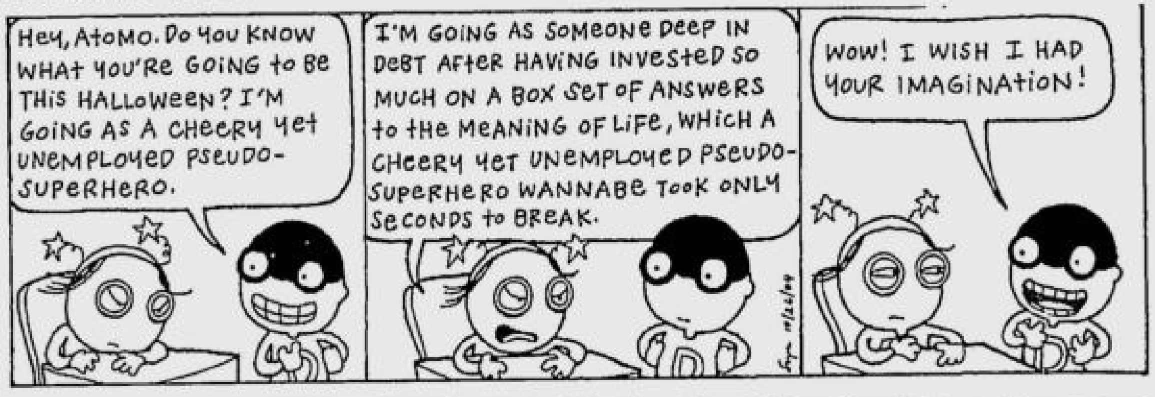
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHAT...? YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TRAINED ME TO "SIT"
10-26

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


SNARF! SNARF! SNARF! SNARF! SNARF!
UM...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HAMMIE?
I'M MAKING UP WEIRD NOISES THAT DRIVE ZOE CRAZY. THIS IS MY NEWEST ONE.
SNARF! SNARF! SNARF! SNARF! SNARF!
GET OUT OF HERE! YOU'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY!
WELL, AT LEAST HE HAS A HOBBY.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, Atomo. Do you know what you're going to be this Halloween? I'M going as a cheery yet unemployed pseudo-superhero.
I'M going as someone deep in debt after having invested so much on a box set of answers to the meaning of life, which a cheery yet unemployed pseudo-superhero wannabe took only seconds to break.
Wow! I wish I had your imagination!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're not afraid to shake things up. You want to reform, reorganize and improve any organization you belong to. Basically, you want to make the world a better place. You're hard-working, organized and financially shrewd. You're both a planner and a doer. You welcome responsibilities. Expect a lovely, social year ahead. Romance is favored!
Birthdate of: Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, politician; Natalie Merchant, singer: Jaclyn Smith, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): A new relationship with someone older or more experienced could begin for you today. This could be cozy and intimate or casual and professional.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Fellow co-workers are cooperative and helpful today. Everyone seems to have a serious "let's get the job done" attitude. (This is wonderful for productivity.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Romance with someone of an age difference is likely today. Parents might find that children are a serious obligation, but a precious one.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day to make improvements at home or within your family dynamic. Discussions that take place will be serious and practical, but they'll trigger activity to get things done!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is an excellent day to accomplish lots of mental work. Tackle jobs that require concentration and attention to detail. You're in the frame of mind to do homework and cover all your bases.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Money spent today will result in long-term benefit for you. And you won't be frivolous or wasteful! You want value for your dollar now. (That's for sure.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Discussions with bosses and VIPs are extremely favorable today. They will back you up. People see that you're serious and committed to what you're doing. (And you are!)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You find it quite easy to work alone today. In fact, you'll get a lot done. Matters related to the government and large institutions will flow smoothly.

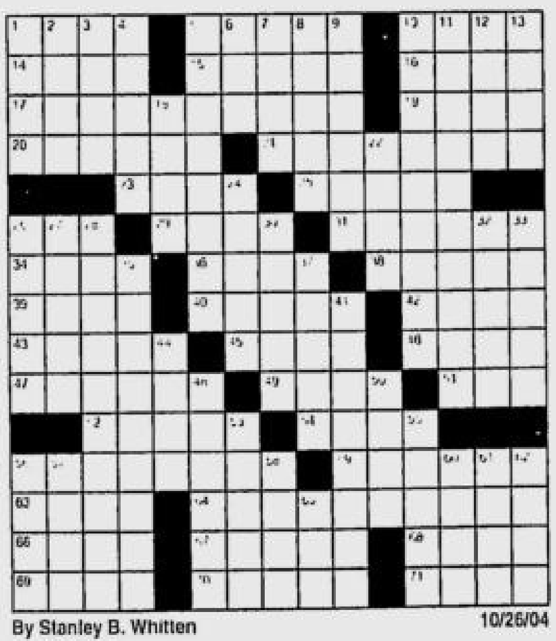
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Seek out advice from an older friend today. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Why not stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before you?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You really impress people today! You appear to be diplomatic, charming, sincere and very much in control of the situation. You'll get anyone's vote!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good day to make serious plans related to school, travel, publishing, the law and medicine. You won't leave anything out. You'll cover every detail with care.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Some of you might receive an inheritance today. In some way, the wealth and resources of others can benefit you now. (And you deserve this.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
10/26/04

ACROSS
1 Golf course transport
5 Take down a peg
10 Rim
14 Gardener, at times
15 Endures
16 Labor
17 Baseball event
19 Green superhero
20 Old Madrid money
21 Subject to abrasion
23 Pineapple brand
25 Thread holder
26 Brit. flyboys
29 Stellar blast
31 Apartment managers
34 Hubbubs
36 Dweeb
38 Mature
39 Drawn tight
40 Love of money
42 Choir member
43 Everglades wader
45 Domesticated
46 Neet competitor
47 Refuse
49 Warbled
51 Up to the present
52 Bancroft and Meara
54 Coating of ice
56 Attractive?
59 Striped equines
63 Encourage
64 Baseball event
66 Prevarications
67 Bird claw
68 At all times
69 "I Remember Mama" character
70 Face-to-face exams
71 Not listening

DOWN
1 Chocolate or micro follower
2 Top-notch
3 Stripe-shirted officials
4 Attempted
5 The whole time
6 Evil
7 Tennis stadium in NYC
8 Mixes
9 Bars legally
10 Addis Ababa resident
11 Baseball event
12 Country singer Vince
13 Actress Sommer
18 College on the Thames
22 Gloomy
24 Chris of tennis
26 Assessed
27 Words from the wise
28 Baseball event
30 Localities
32 Lace back up again
33 Pig sound
35 Seventy
37 Object mildly
41 Inhabitants
44 Point of a pitchfork
48 Starts in on
50 Feds
53 Indian instrument
55 Receded
56 Comic Martin
57 Diva's showstopper
58 Soft drink flavor
60 Enthusiastic review
61 On the briny
62 Peasant
65 Chat-room laughter letters

Monday's Puzzle Solved

K	E	O	G	H	■	B	A	A	L	■	N	A	V	E
E	M	C	E	E	■	A	L	T	E	■	E	N	I	D
L	I	T	T	L	E	S	O	M	E	T	H	I	N	G
P	R	E	S	S	U	R	E	■	J	E	R	S	E	Y
S	S	T	■	I	R	A	■	W	C	T	U	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	N	O	■	R	I	O	S	■	Y	U	P
M	I	N	S	K	■	S	E	R	B	■	S	A	K	I
D	R	O	P	I	N	T	H	E	B	U	C	K	E	T
I	K	E	S	■	A	R	I	D	■	S	A	S	S	Y
I	S	L	■	B	R	U	T	■	P	U	B	■	■	■
■	■	■	B	E	R	M	■	S	U	R	■	N	A	G
S	P	A	R	T	A	■	A	L	L	I	N	A	L	L
M	I	N	I	A	T	U	R	E	P	O	O	D	L	E
U	N	I	T	■	E	R	I	E	■	U	N	I	O	N
G	E	L	S	■	S	N	A	P	■	S	O	R	T	S

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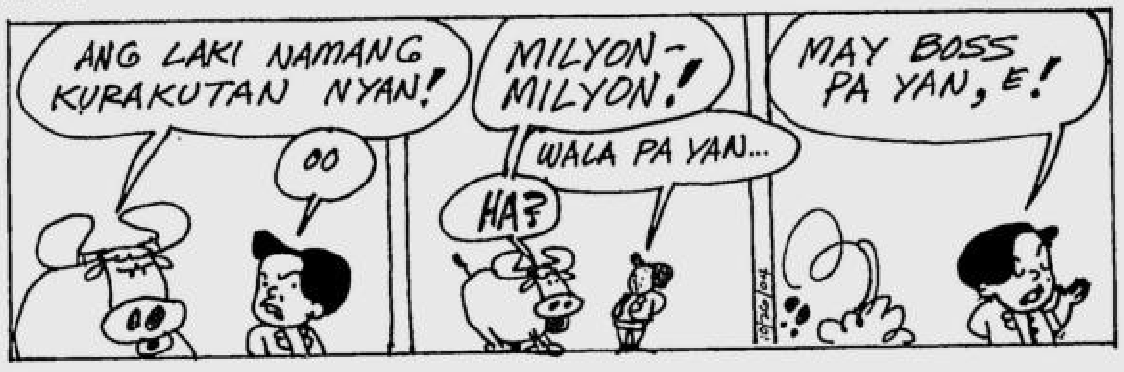
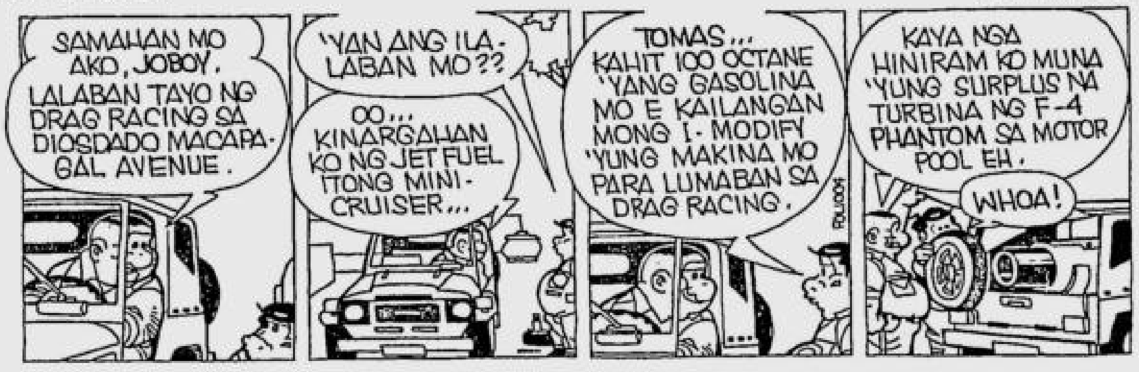
10/26/04

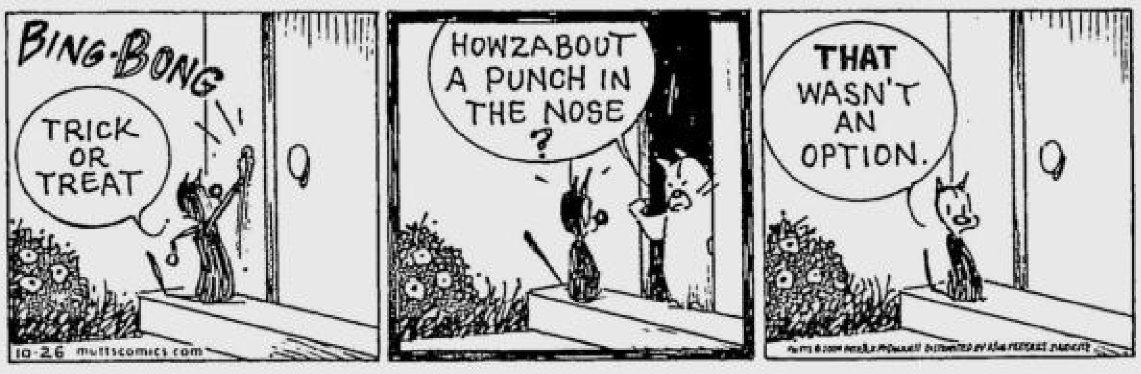
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ANG LAKI NAMANG KURAKUTAN NYAN!
OO
MILYON-MILYON!
HA?
WALA PA YAN...
MAY BOSS PA YAN, E!
10/26/04

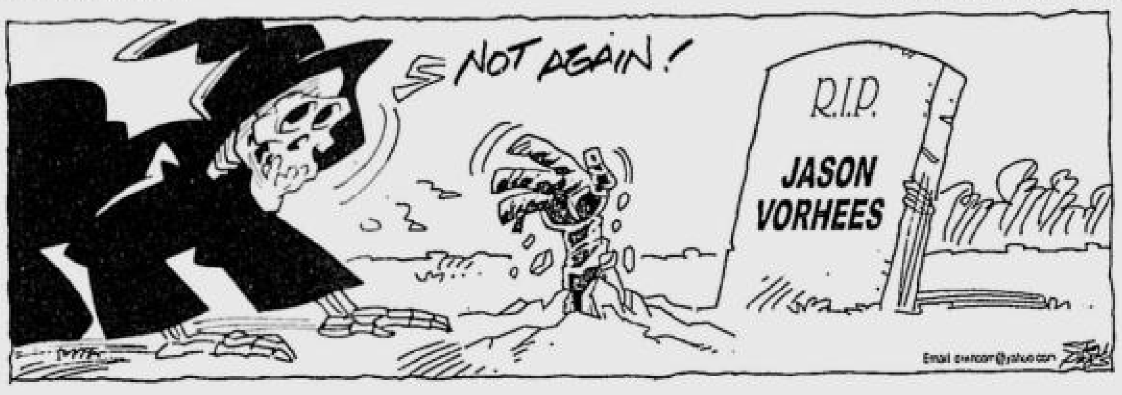
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SAMAHAN MO AKO, JOBOY. LALABAN TAYO NG DRAG RACING SA DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL AVENUE.
'YAN ANG ILALABAN MO??
OO... KINARGAHAN KO NG JET FUEL ITONG MINI-CRUISER...
TOMAS... KAHIT 100 OCTANE 'YANG GASOLINA MO E KAILANGAN MONG I-MODIFY 'YUNG MAKINA MO PARA LUMABAN SA DRAG RACING.
KAYA NGA HINIRAM KO MUNA 'YUNG SURPLUS NA TURBINA NG F-4 PHANTOM SA MOTOR POOL EH.
WHOA!

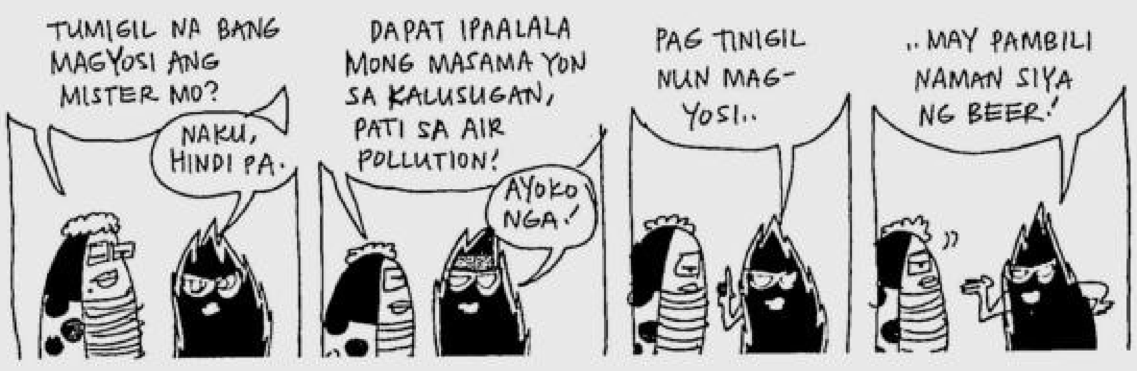
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BING-BONG
TRICK OR TREAT
HOWZABOUT A PUNCH IN THE NOSE
?
THAT WASN'T AN OPTION.
10-26 muttscomics.com

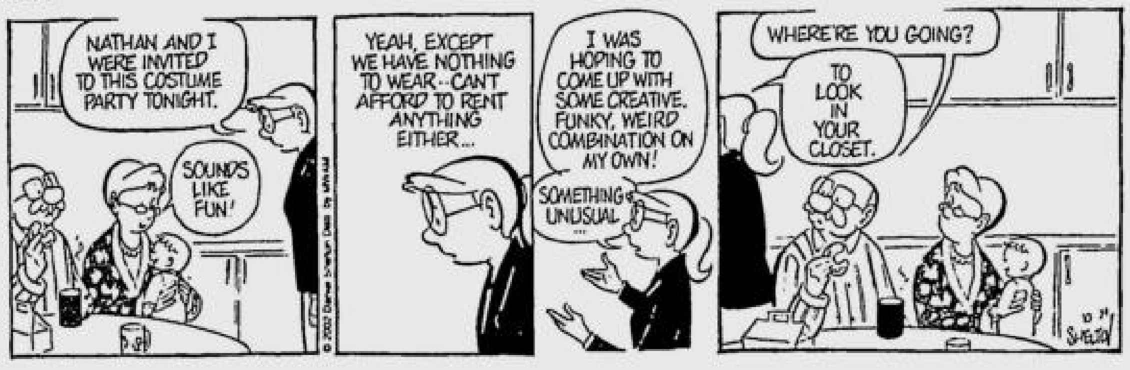
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NOT AGAIN!
R.I.P.
JASON VORHEES

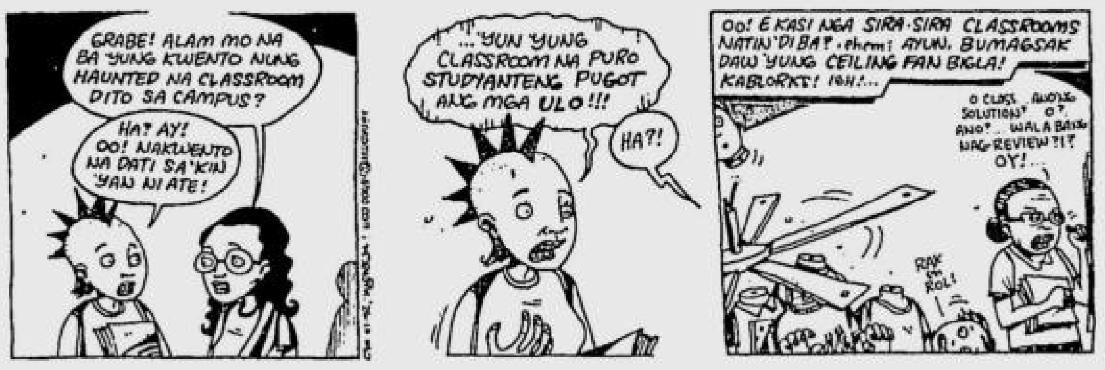
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TUMIGIL NA BANG MAGYOSI ANG MISTER MO?
NAKU, HINDI PA.
DAPAT IPAALALA MONG MASAMA YON SA KALUSUGAN, PATI SA AIR POLLUTION!
AYOKO NGA!
PAG TINIGIL NUN MAG-YOSI..
..MAY PAMBILI NAMAN SIYA NG BEER!

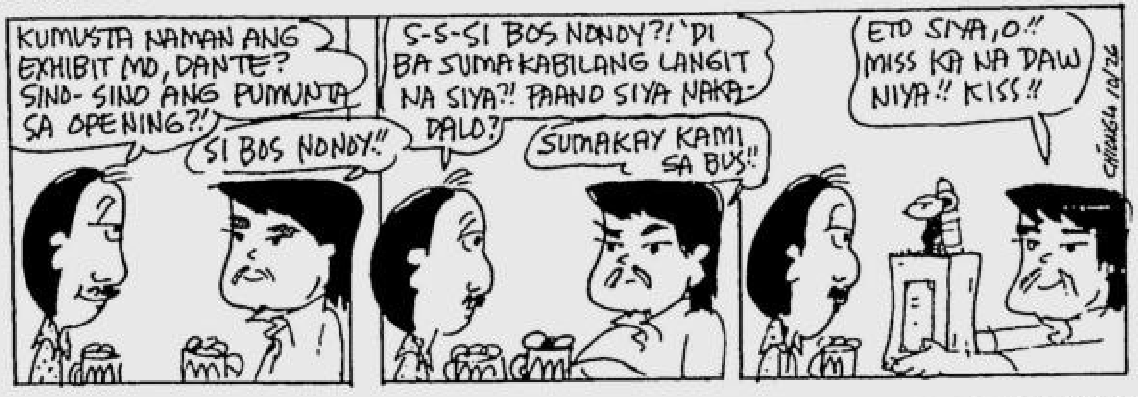
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


NATHAN AND I WERE INVITED TO THIS COSTUME PARTY TONIGHT.
SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
YEAH, EXCEPT WE HAVE NOTHING TO WEAR--CAN'T AFFORD TO RENT ANYTHING EITHER...
I WAS HOPING TO COME UP WITH SOME CREATIVE, FUNKY, WEIRD COMBINATION ON MY OWN!
SOMETHING UNUSUAL...
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
TO LOOK IN YOUR CLOSET.

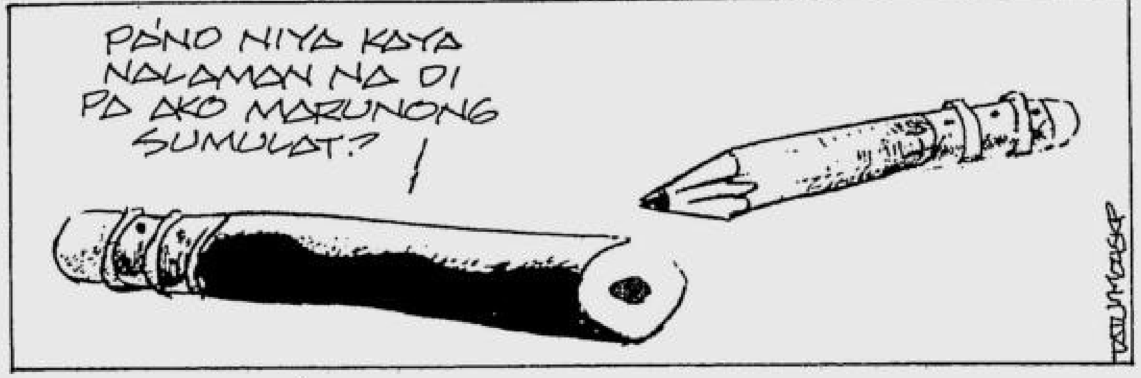
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE! ALAM MO NA BA 'YUNG KWENTO NUNG HAUNTED NA CLASSROOM DITO SA CAMPUS?
HA? AY! OO! NAKWENTO NA DATI SA'KIN 'YAN NI ATE!
...'YUN 'YUNG CLASSROOM NA PURO STUDYANTENG PUGOT ANG MGA ULO!!!
HA?!
OO! E KASI NGA SIRA-SIRA CLASSROOMS NATIN 'DI BA? ahem! AYUN. BUMAGSAK DAW 'YUNG CEILING FAN BIGLA! KABLORKS! IGH!...
O CLASS, ANO'NG SOLUTION? O?, ANO?.. WALA BANG NAG-REVIEW?!? OY!...
RAK EN ROL!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUMUSTA NAMAN ANG EXHIBIT MO, DANTE? SINO-SINO ANG PUMUNTA SA OPENING?!
SI BOS NONDY!!
S-S-SI BOS NONDY?! 'DI BA SUMAKABILANG LANGIT NA SIYA?! PAANO SIYA NAKADALO?
SUMAKAY KAMI SA BUS!!
ETO SIYA, O!! MISS KA NA DAW NIYA!! KISS!!
CHIONGLO 10/26

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PA'NO NIYA KAYA NALAMAN NA DI PA AKO MARUNONG SUMULAT?

Why spirits of the dead return

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

"WHEN I visited the two-story house of my aunt in Bacolod City," related a young executive, "the door was opened by a man in a doctor's gown. When I asked if my aunt was there, he said she was upstairs. As I climbed the stairs, I glanced back but the man wasn't there anymore. Upstairs, I told my aunt I didn't know a doctor lived at the ground floor. She was surprised and asked how I knew this. I said he opened the door for me. My aunt suddenly turned pale. She said a doctor used to live in that house, but he died several years ago."

This is not the first time the young executive saw a spirit of the dead. In fact, for him, seeing a ghost is as natural as seeing a live person. He sometimes cannot even tell whether he is seeing a ghost or a living human being because he talks to ghosts the way he would to a flesh and blood person.

On another occasion, he related to me an extraordinary incident. He was in the house of his relatives when a fluorescent tube fell from the ceiling and landed on the sofa. The lamp did not break.

No accident

Everybody thought it fell by itself, but my friend pointed out it could not have dropped accidentally otherwise, it would have crashed on the floor instead of the sofa, which was not directly under the lamp. He said he clearly saw somebody pull the tube out and place it on top of the sofa. He alone saw the ghost.

Stories of personal encounters with the spirit of the dead are numerous, despite frantic denials by fundamentalist Christian religions and materialist scientists who have never investigated the matter in depth. Spirit manifestation is a universal phenomenon and is not peculiar to any one country. But it seems to happen more often in some countries in Asia than in others.

Saved from ruin

Why do ghosts appear? To communicate an important or urgent message to the living is one reason. For example, a grandfather who suddenly died appeared to his grandson in a dream to reveal a hidden land title the family needed to ease their financial burden. That piece of property was unknown to any family member.

In the dream, the grandfather pointed to a leg of his bed which had a secret compartment. The family found the title, sold the property and was saved from bankruptcy. The grandson to whom the grandfather appeared is a well-known anthropologist at the University of the Philippines.

Healing a feud

Another interesting case is that of a young Filipino businessman who suddenly died of a heart attack. His wife was a nurse in Saudi Arabia when he died. After his burial, the wife decided to take her children from her in-laws' house where they were staying. Apparently, they did not get along very well.

The next day, a handwritten message suddenly appeared on the mirror of the woman's dresser saying, "Help, please." It was the handwriting of the dead man.

A séance was conducted, with a cousin of the dead man as medium. Through automatic writing, he gave several important messages to his family, especially to his wife. He did not want her to take the children out of the family compound. Eventually, the ill-feelings or conflicts among them were resolved.

Murder victims usually appear as ghosts to ensure that justice is done. We can recall the celebrated cases of the Vizconde massacre and the brutal murder of Navy Ensign Pestanio, whose spirits came back to seek justice.

In need of prayers

Most ghosts are harmless and should not cause alarm. Many don't know they are already dead or refuse to accept their death. Some only wish for prayers and to be elevated to a higher plane of consciousness. They respond positively to sincere acts of prayer and spiritual assistance from the living.

Spirits attached to the living become earthbound. They cannot let go of the material plane and may sometimes try to possess and harm living beings. Such ghosts are rare and need to be exorcised.

The spiritualist movement in the west was born because a ghost manifested itself to the Fox family in 1948 in Hydesville, New York by rapping on tables and knocking on walls.

Roy Stemman relates in the book "Spirit and the Spirit World":

"The Fox family devised a simple method of communicating with the unseen presence. They asked it questions that could be answered simply 'yes' (one rap), or 'no' (two raps). Using the code, the presence identified itself as the spirit of a murdered peddler whose body had been buried beneath the Fox cottage. News of the rappings spread rapidly in the small town, and soon the Foxes invited their neighbors to hear conversations with the dead peddler's spirit."

The spiritualist movement soon spread to England and other parts of the world.

Although one of the Fox sisters, Margareth, eventually confessed they faked the rappings, the spiritualist movement continued to grow and even attracted such famous personalities as United States President Abraham Lincoln, British writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and world renowned scientists Carl Jung, Sir William Crooks and Thomas Edison.

Why do spirits of the dead return to earth? Because they never left in the first place!

E-mail reactions to this column to jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph

Sexuality :
No one is too old for good sex....

Women should continue to enjoy a healthy sexual life even beyond menopause. In fact, menopause is probably the best time for this because there is no need to fear about pregnancy and women at this stage have all the time for intimate bonding. The saying "if you don't use it, you lose it" is especially true at this stage.

A positive attitude towards sex and aging as well as maintaining a good relationship with your partner is crucial. Your own expectations as well as your partner's should be discussed openly and regularly. Explore ways by which you can both enjoy intimate time together. Creating romantic settings at home, spending time at an out of town retreat, playing sweet and soothing music, enjoying aromatherapy massages together are a few examples.

Another important factor to a healthy sexual life is to be aware of the changes you go through during menopause. Vaginal dryness, loss of libido, hormonal changes, and others should be discussed with a doctor you trust and who can suggest appropriate therapies.

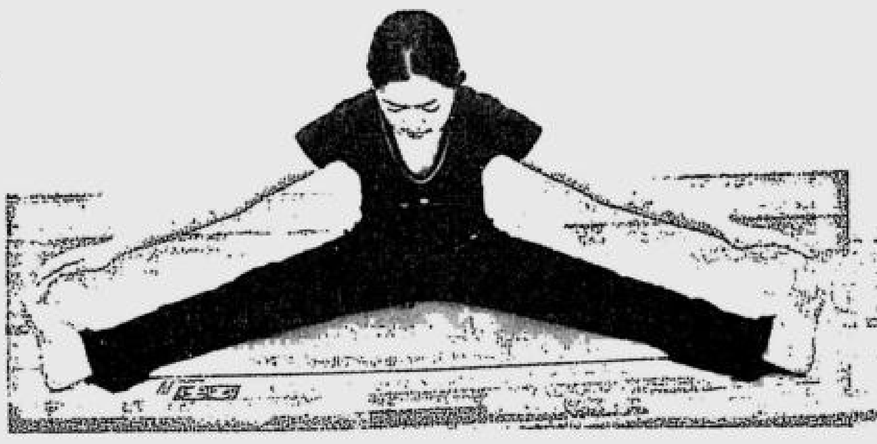
STEAR or Selective Tissue Estrogenic Activity Regulator therapy which includes Tibolone is one good option. Androgen, a male hormone present in the female body in small amounts regulates women's sexuality. Androgen levels decline with age. Compared to other MTs, only Tibolone has been shown to have androgenic activity and thus, it is the only MT shown to have a better effect in the improvement of mood and libido among postmenopausal women. For women suffering only from vaginal symptoms, a vaginal cream containing estriol will restore the normal vaginal environment. This will help relieve conditions such as vaginal dryness and itchiness and prevent recurrent urogenital infections.

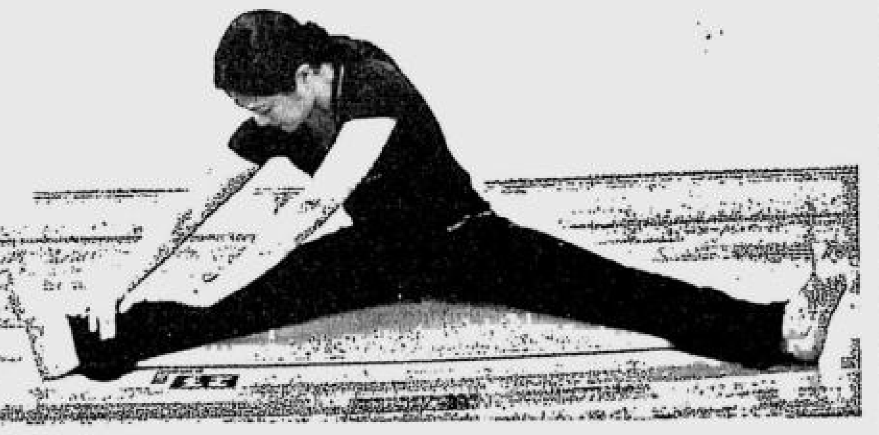
Intimacy is possible even in postmenopause. Women at this stage can stay physically and emotionally healthy. They can remain loving partners to their spouses and pleasant company to their family and friends. See your doctor and ask about STEAR or Tibolone therapy.

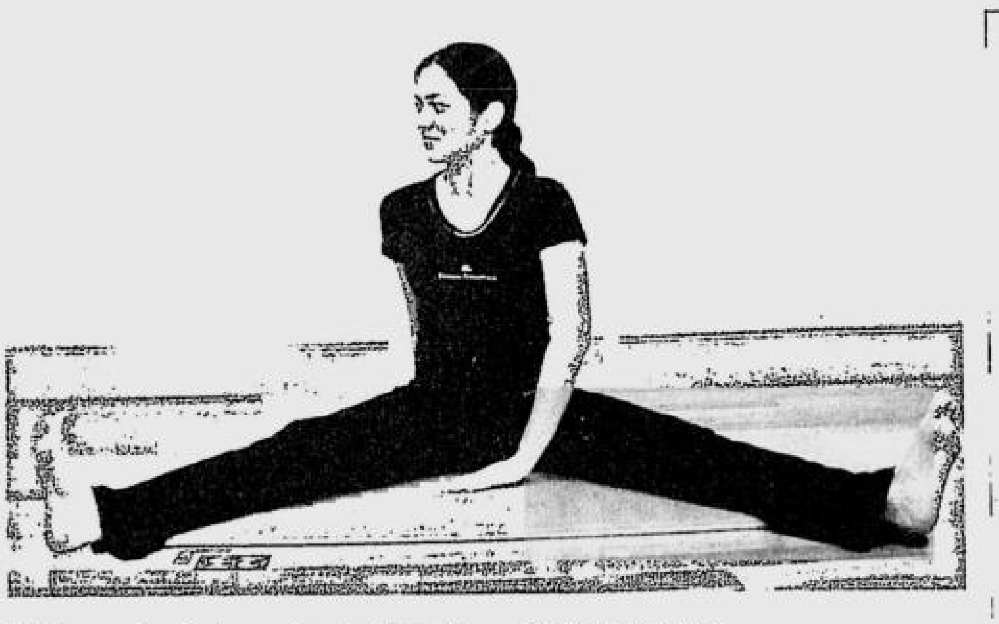
For questions or suggestions please email **livial@organon.ph** or text **0917-8523350.**

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Full straddle series







THIS yoga-inspired exercise stretches the waist, inner thighs, hamstrings (back of the thighs) and buttocks.

Equipment

Exercise mat

Exercise technique

1. Sit in a full straddle with one straight leg and flexed feet. Tighten up the muscles in the front of your thighs (this helps to relax and lengthen the hamstrings or muscles at the back of the thighs). Hands should be on top of your thighs.
2. Bend forward from the waist and reach for your feet.
3. Then, carefully turn towards one leg still reaching for your foot.
4. And, finally, straighten up and rotate your waist and look behind you. One hand goes behind you and the other hand stays in front.
5. Slowly return to starting position.
6. Repeat the whole series on the other side.

Performance tips

1. Keep your buttocks pressed against the floor in all the positions. Avoid tilting your pelvis to reach further.
2. If you cannot reach your toes, hold your shins or ankles.
3. Try to relax as you hold each position. Keep your shoulders free from tension.
4. Focus on keeping your inhalation and exhalation even and consistent.
5. In position 3, start the rotation from your waist, moving into your shoulders and neck.
6. If you cannot maintain a straight back in the starting position because your hamstrings are not as flexible, roll up a towel and put it under your buttocks. This will elevate your pelvis and make it easier to sit tall.

Repetitions

One breath equals breathing in and breathing out. Hold each position for three to five breaths.

Coping with chocolate ...

From page C8

take in a large number of calories quickly. Have chocolate at the end of a meal when you are not very hungry. You are less likely to overindulge at that time."

If you want to have chocolate as a snack, Rolls says it's better to take it in liquid form rather than a chocolate bar. A glass of non-fat milk with cocoa powder can range from 91 calories (one tablespoon cocoa plus artificial sweetener) to 132 calories (two tablespoons of cocoa plus two teaspoons of sugar) compared to a chocolate bar that has 230 calories. The chocolate milk is also more filling because of its protein, so you get fewer calories but are more satisfied.

***

The Orthopedic Partners will hold a free workshop titled "Sports & Fitness for all Ages" on Saturday, Nov. 6 at Club Filipino. Topics include: Are Your Kids Ready for Sports, Sporty at 70, Substance Abuse Management in Athletes, The Female Athlete, and various talks on badminton, duathlon, swimming and taekwondo. First 400 registrants get lunch plus two snacks. Call 7270001 loc. 823 or 7277672.

"In Fitness & In Health" has a new time slot, 8-8:30 a.m., Mondays to Fridays, Studio 23

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

Take Charge Doc!

Dr. Nicky S. Montoya

Take Charge Doc! is your weekly question and answer guide on general health issues and illnesses. MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, Take Charge Doc! parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health.

What fruits and vegetables should I avoid for my baby?

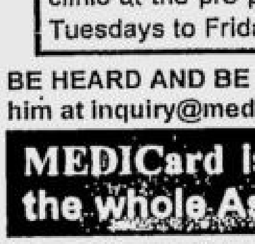
Recent studies have discovered that certain fruits and vegetables may pose problems or risk to babies and thus, are advised to be avoided. One common problem is allergy. If your lineage has a history of allergy, citrus fruits and juices, berries, tomatoes and beans are best avoided at least during baby's first year. Examples of citrus fruits are calamansi, orange, ponkan, dalandan, strawberry, papaya, lemon, apple and mango.

Introduce only one new food per week to be able to check for any allergic reactions. If a rash or wheezing occurs, refrain from serving the food for a week. If the reaction recurs after reintroduction of the food, it might be better to wait a few weeks more until baby's digestive tract are more mature.

Also common to babies is the problem of choking. Some seemingly safe foods may actually pose a choking danger. Babies with only front teeth are capable of biting off chunks of food but not to chew, posing as a choking risk. Thus, it is best advised to avoid the following foods until your baby has molars (around 1 to 1 and 1/2 years): raw vegetables such as carrot and celery stick, grapes, cherries and berries, and raisins.

Colic and indigestion are also common problems of infants. Since foods like cucumber, onion, cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower are harder to digest, it may be best to leave these out of baby's diet until at least 9 months old where the digestive tract are more mature.

Dental health should also be considered. There are fruits which are found to be highly acidogenic, meaning produce a significant drop in the oral PH level leading to dental caries. These should be avoided, more especially in-between meals. These are raisins, dried apricots, dried apples, dried pears and dates. Those with moderate acidogenicity are pears, peaches, apples and grapes. Vegetables like broccoli, cauliflower, celery, cucumber, carrots and green peppers have low acidogenicity and thus are preferable for in-between meals. With regards to fruit juices, give baby diluted juices in a sipping cup rather than in feeding bottles. Using a cup can help prevent cavities in young teeth.



We rely on the expertise of **Dr. Maria Zenaida A. Lim** for this week's answer to our feature question on food for babies. Often referred to as "Doktora Lim", she specializes in the field of Pediatrics. She chose Psychology at U.P. Diliman for her pre-med course and in 1987 took Medicine proper at UERM-MMC. In 1992, she took her four-year residency training for her specialization at Manila Doctors Hospital where she is now based handling the healthcare needs of MEDICard members. For your children's consultation needs, visit Dr. Lim's clinic at the pre-paid department of Manila Doctors every Monday, from 1:30 to 5 PM and from Tuesdays to Fridays, from 9:30 AM to 1:30 in the afternoon.

BE HEARD AND BE READ. Write to DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA (c/o *TAKE CHARGE DOC!*) or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO CERTIFIED

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Coping with chocolate cravings

THERE are many theories why women have chocolate cravings. They are supposed to improve mood by raising serotonin (compounds that are supposed to affect moods) levels, simulate the feeling of being "in love" via an ingredient called PEA, and have a euphoric effect similar to marijuana. Women are also said to be conditioned from childhood to associate chocolate with celebration or to think of it as a reward.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

Whatever the reason, chocolate is the most craved for food. And chances are, women reading this article may be having a hard time controlling their chocolate cravings.

Well, there is no need to go to chocoholic extremes of complete denial or finishing an entire Cadbury bar when you feel stressed. There are practical ways to cope with chocolate cravings.

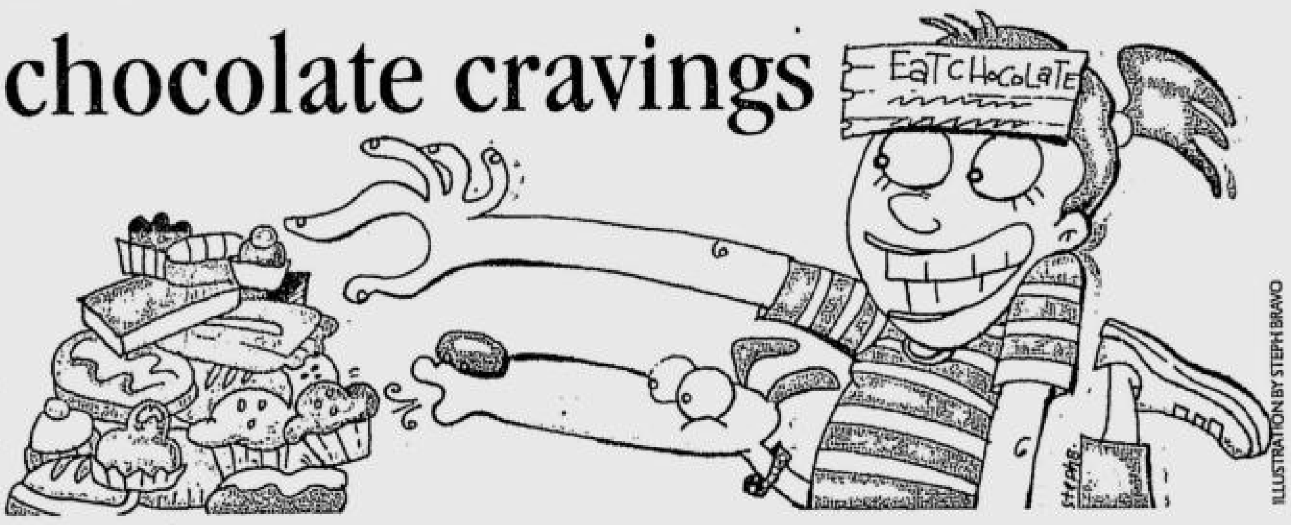

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Q: How many calories are there in a piece of chocolate? A: Who cares?

The three most common types of chocolate are dark, milk and white. All three types contain about the same number of calories—230 per 1.5 ounces, the size of a typical chocolate bar, one small pack of M&M's and nine Hershey kisses.

Before eating any chocolate, first break it into pieces. This allows the calories to leak out!

One chocolate kiss or one chocolate square has about 25 calories. That isn't much compared to one cookie that has 50 calories or one soda cracker with 40 calories.

If you can stop after one or two pieces of chocolate, it's safe to buy a whole bar and just break off a square or two when you are in the mood. If not, stick to single mini-size servings to keep calories under control.

Store your chocolate on top of the refrigerator.

Calories are afraid of heights and will jump out of the chocolate to protect themselves.

If you have out-of-control chocolate cravings, do not keep chocolates at home. If I have to bet between your willpower and chocolate, my money is on the chocolate. It doesn't mean that you are weak. You are just human and female. Like me. That's why my chocolate trigger foods like Oreo cookies, cupcakes, pudding and brownies are off-limits in my house.

Put "eat chocolate" at the top of your list of things to do today.

That way, at least you'll get one thing done.

Many years ago, when chocolate cravings were getting the better of me, I got them under control by purposely having something with chocolate every day. I would either have chocolate-flavored oatmeal for breakfast (I made believe I was having chocolate pudding) or a glass of chocolate milk. I used cocoa powder, which only has 11 calories per tablespoon but still has a rich chocolate flavor. Calories were cut even further by using non-fat milk.

I accomplished three things by putting chocolate on my "to do" list: Chocolate was no longer a "forbidden" treat, my cravings didn't rise to danger levels because I could look forward to having a little chocolate everyday, and calories were kept to a minimum.

After about a year or so, believe it or not, I got a little sick and tired of having chocolate everyday. It lost its hold on me. Today, I only crave for chocolate right before my period or if I eat out and see a particularly tempting concoction on the buffet table or dessert cart.

The way to a woman's heart is through a box of chocolates.

Ask yourself why you have strong cravings for chocolate. If it's because your period is on its way, that's normal. But if it's because you are nursing a broken heart or you have "issues" you need to confront, a good therapist will do you more good than all the chocolate in the world. I know because I have been there.

Chocolate isn't just for breakfast.

Weight management experts recommend eating chocolate only as a dessert, never as a snack and never on an empty stomach. Professor Barbara Rolls of Penn State University told the Scripps-Howards News Service, "People don't crave chocolate for some drug-like effect, but because of its sensory properties and calories. It tastes very good and it is energy dense, so you can

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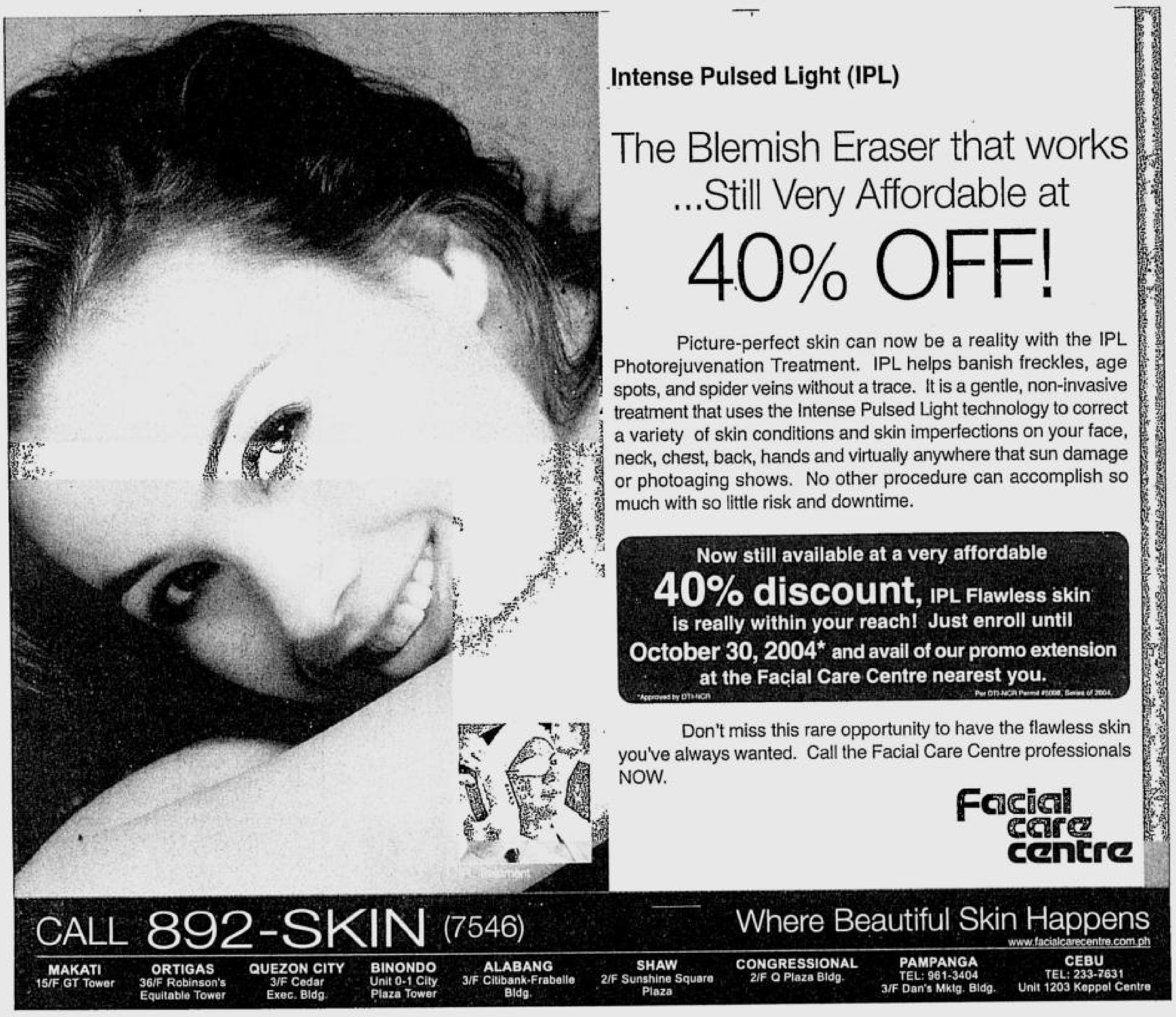
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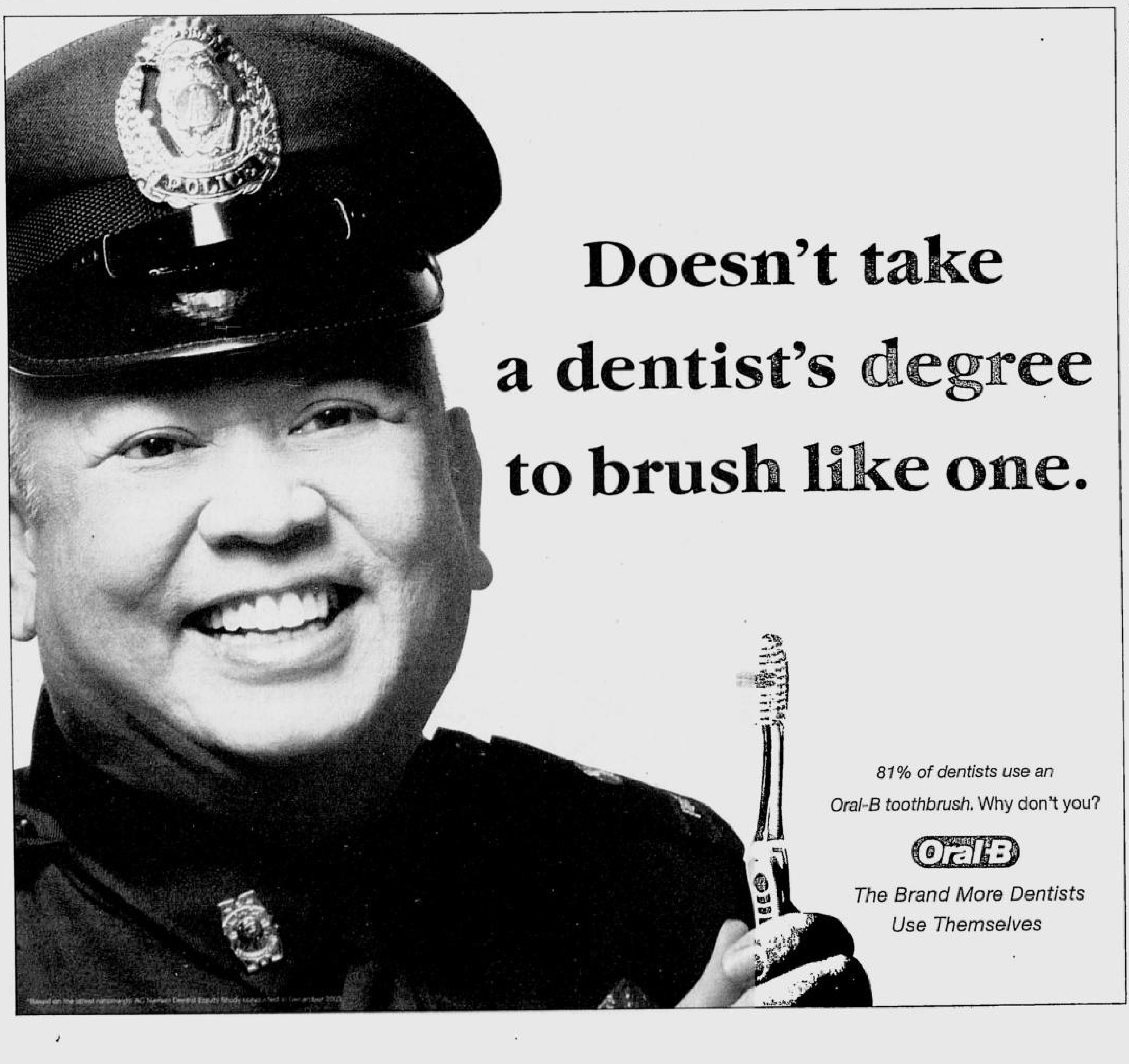
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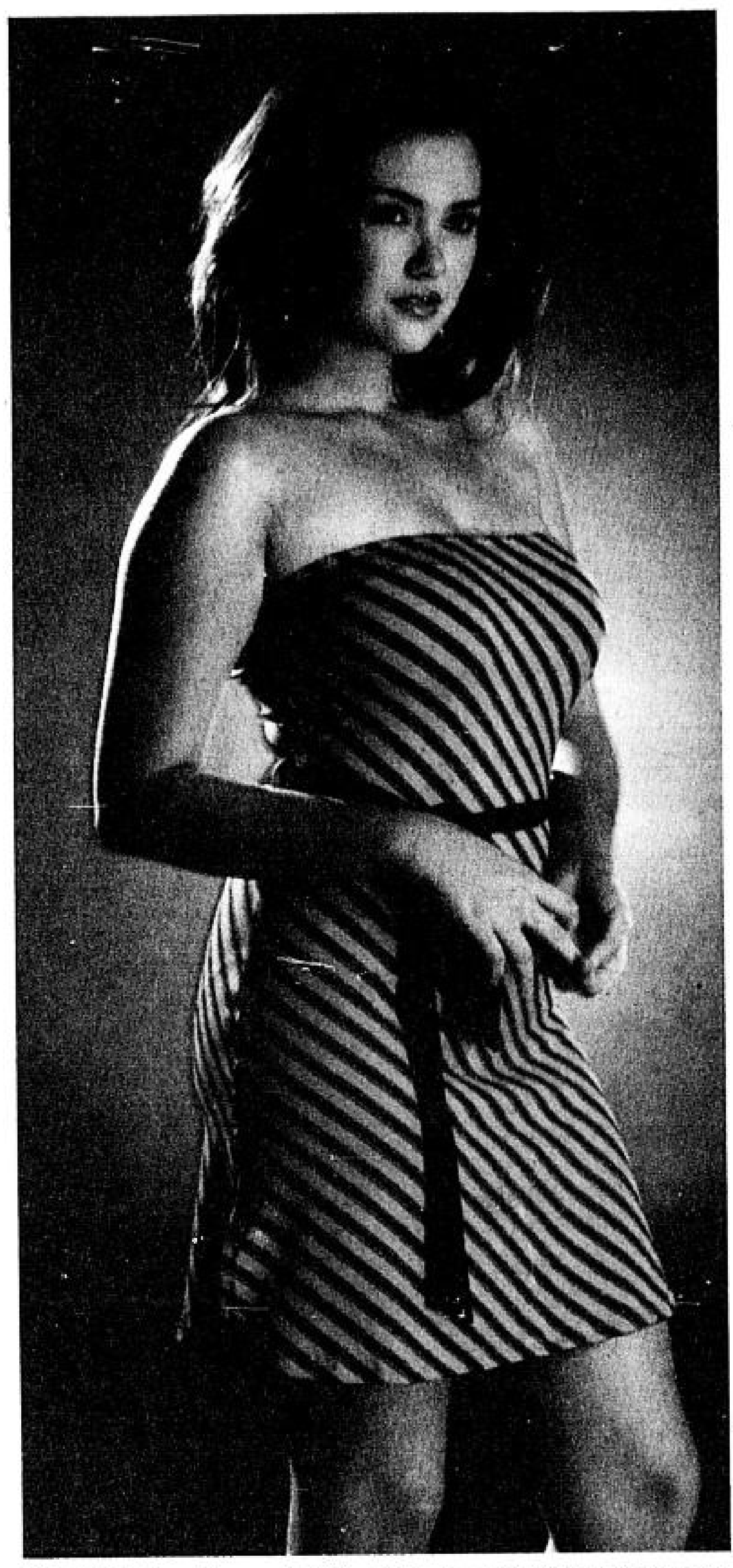

BAD BABE. Angelica was initially afraid she couldn't play the role of a bad girl struggling to be good.

· WILD SIDE. Angelica walks the walk in the carnival that's Quiapo.

'Just a job,' Echo says of love scene with Angelica

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Contributor

JERICHO Rosales insists that he doesn't understand the fuss that has been surrounding his love scene with Angelica Panganiban in Laurice Guillen's "Santa Santita."

"People are always talking about the love scene," says Jericho. "That I am playing a liar, a cheat. In my opinion, this is just my job as an actor. I am looking at this role as one giant step in my continuing growth as an actor."

The much-ballyhooed love scene, he feels, is an integral part of the story. "It's not about Angelica and Jericho doing a bed scene," he says. "It's about our characters Malen and Mike's great need for each other. It's about their love story."

Angelica agrees with Jericho. "This is a very challenging role," she says. "It will show my character changing from a crazy, flirty girl into a pious prayer woman. It will show her struggles to be good."

Leap of faith

Direk Laurice's latest movie, a production of Unitel Pictures International, is subtitled "A Journey of Faith."

For the movie's two lead stars, it could also be a leap of faith, an ecstatic jump into the Great Unknown. The two young stars are, after all, making the big leap from their teens and *telenovela* characters to more adult and substantial roles.

Indeed, it has been a journey of discovery, in more ways than one, for the entire cast and crew of the poignant movie.

Bar none, all the characters the actors play in the movie are undergoing tumultuous upheavals.

Hilda Koronel, who plays Chayong, a professional prayer woman and mother of unruly teener Malen (portrayed by Angelica), must come to terms with her daughter's blooming sexuality and headstrong personality.

Cherrie Pie Picache plays Sister Dolor, a nun deeply involved in social work and is also at a crossroads in her life.

"She's a very human nun," Cherrie Pie describes Sister Dolor. "She also gets tired. She also gets frustrated. She feels unappreciated and neglected by God."

Johnny Delgado, who also portrays a very conflicted priest (Father Tony), believes that "Santa Santita" actually shows the Church's humanity.

"That was our mission in this movie," said Johnny. "We wanted to show the human side of the Church."

His own character is battling a closetful of demons—including the doubts of his parishioners who suspect that he is an embezzler, and his addiction to alcohol.

"There's this saying that the Church is just a community of sinners who are trying to be saints," intones Johnny.

"We are showing the amazing faith of Filipinos in this movie," adds Cherrie Pie.

It's a message that is badly needed in this troubled times.

"But it's not preachy," Cherrie Pie attests. "It tells us that God really works in mysterious ways. That He works wonders. And that He really came for the sinners."

That was precisely what attracted filmmaker Laurice Guillen to the award-winning script of Jerry Gracio, who won first prize in the scriptwriting contest of the Film Development Council of the Philippines a year before the victory of what would turn out to be the widely acclaimed "Magnifico."

"Under the main narrative, there was another spiritual story that was unfolding," says Laurice. "I wanted to focus on that. The challenge was in showing these two paths merging. All the characters in this movie underwent a journey. They all realize that all of us in this world are sinners. But what is important is how you struggle to be good. As they say, 'The road to hell is wide and paved, but the road to heaven is narrow and hard.' "

Risky proposition

This odyssey is best captured by the two main characters in "Santa Santita," Malen and Mike, portrayed by Angelica and Jericho. Malen's character undergoes a roller-coaster ride, evolving from a carefree teener into a repentant mystic. Mike also experiences a powerful transformation—from the very personification of evil to a "very vulnerable victim of circumstance."

Mirroring their screen alter egos' personal transformations, both Jericho and Angelica are also reinventing their screen personas with this movie. It's quite a risky proposition: Matinee idol Jericho is playing a bad boy and sweet babe Angelica is portraying a bad girl.

Everyone in the cast, particularly Jericho and Angelica, is confident that the gambit would pay big time, though.

Because Malen is quite a departure for the young actress, Angelica was initially apprehensive to tackle the complicated character.

"At first, I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to do it well," she says. But just like Malen, Angelica took a leap of faith and trusted her instincts throughout the "long and intense" (as *Direk* Laurice herself would put it) shoot.

"In the end, it was all about trusting my director and my leading man," Angelica affirms.

Angelica and Jericho hope that people who watch the movie would become more enlightened.

"It really offers a lot of lessons," says Angelica. "It talks about our faith, our culture."

"I hope that they will realize that Filipinos have so much faith," says Jericho. "I also wish that they will realize how true and passionate Filipinos are when it comes to making movies."

"Santa Santita" was invited to the Pusan Promotional Plan, a forum where "ongoing and outstanding Asian film projects could find co-financers and coproducers."

The Quiapo carnival

Direk Laurice sincerely hopes that audiences, both local and foreign, would walk away, after watching "Santa Santita," with this insight: "That the Filipino's devotion is strong. As a people, we are always searching for miracles, both good and bad. Our spirituality as a people is so intense, so passionate that it even borders on the hysterical."

This is best seen in the movie's setting—Quiapo, a colorful carnival of the divine and the depraved, the profound and the profane, the pious and the petty.

"It's full of contradictions," *Direk* Laurice says of Quiapo. "There, you can see the Filipino's fervent faith. You can see the sacraments in the church and the fortune-tellers and the herbal-medicine and black-candle vendors outside. It's really a magnet for sinners."

This city of sinners is just the first stop on the road to redemption in "Santa Santita."

ILLUSTRATED MAN. Echo considers his role as an evil man who becomes a victim as a "giant step" in his career.

Mmmbop! Hanson in Manila in November

SHOW TIME

THE "Mmmbop" trio of Hanson is finally coming to Manila for a one-night concert at the Aliw Theater on Nov. 30.

Despite the sudden cancelation of their Manila promo tour earlier this year, brothers Isaac, Taylor and Zac Hanson are looking forward to finally performing for their legion of Filipino fans. They will be playing their hits such as "Mmmbop," "This Time Around," "You Never Know," "If Only," "Runaway Run," "Sure About It," as well as their latest hits.

Hanson is currently completing its worldwide promo tour in conjunction with its latest release, "Underneath," distributed locally by Sony Music Philippines.

Pop music fans will definitely remember how the three brothers stormed the music world in 1997 with their landmark, eight-million worldwide-selling album, "Middle of Nowhere," which spawned the smash single "MmmBop."

The song led to three 1998 Grammy nominations, including record of the year, best new artist and best pop performance by a duo or group with vocals.

The album soared to No. 2 on the Billboard Top 200 and carried with it two other top 10 singles.

Rolling Stone named "Middle of Nowhere" one of its "Essential Albums of the '90s," while Q Magazine and Melody Maker hailed it as one of the 50 Best Albums of 1997.

Spin raved: "Hanson songs ... are about the pure pleasures of sound."

In 2000, Hanson defied expectations with their second album, "This Time Around," which critics hailed as the precursor to the current wave of singer-songwriters such as Michelle Branch, Avril Lavigne, John Mayer, Jason Mraz and Vanessa Carlton.

The release of their long-awaited third solo album—the epic "Underneath," which took more than three years in the making—on their own 3CG Records augurs yet another seismic shift in the shrinking pop music landscape. The move marked a milestone for artists who want to take control of their own music.

The Hanson Manila Tour 2004 is presented by Globe GenText and Globe Girlfriend in cooperation with ALV Events International. Tickets are available at all TicketNet outlets (911-5555), and ALV Events International (633-98-25 to 27).

GROWN-UPS. Hanson's music is "all about the pure pleasures of sound."

See'Mall!

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2 CELLULAR	2 CELLULAR	2 FIRST DAUGHTER	2 WHITE CHICKS 11:35, 2.00, 4.25, 6.50, 9.15	2 GUARANTEED SEATS CELLULAR 12.50, 2.55, 5.00, 7.05, 9.10, 11.10	2 THE DOLL MASTER
3 WHITE CHICKS	3 THE DOLL MASTER	3 GUARANTEED SEATS CELLULAR 12.05, 2.10, 4.15, 6.20, 8.25, 10.30		3 GUARANTEED SEATS HOUSE OF FLYINGDAGGERS 1.25, 3.45, 6.05, 8.25, 10.45	3 TWISTED
4 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	4 FIRST DAUGHTER	4 STEAL		4 GUARANTEED SEATS WIMBLEDON 1.40, 4.00, 6.10, 8.20, 10.30	4 SHARK TALE
5 SHARK TALE		5 SHARK TALE		5 GUARANTEED SEATS FIRST DAUGHTER 2.00, 4.20, 6.40, 9.00, 11.20	5 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
		6 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW			
		7 THE DOLL MASTER			

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SM City Manila Cinema 2
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DOLL MASTER MTRCB Rating: R13
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SM Megamall Cinema 2
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PAQUITO Diaz

SHOW TIME

Merk's concert for 'Kits'

MERK'S Bar Bistro now lends a helping hand to character actor Paquito Diaz, who was hospitalized recently after a stroke, by hosting a special fund-raising concert on Nov, 8.

Called "Kita Kits Para Kay Kits: A Song for Paquito 'Kits' Diaz," the fundraising concert will feature celebrities led by Eddie Garcia, Dolphy, Eddie Mesa, Rudy Fernandez, Michael V., Bobot Mortiz, Leo Martinez, Allan K., Victor Wood, Noel Trinidad, Vic Sotto, Richard Merk, Jacqui Magno, Bimbo Cerrudo and Montet Acoymo, among others.

Overall coordinator is director Tony Reyes.

Merk's Bar Bistro adds to its attractions the alternative music of Joey Ayala and Noel Cabangon in a special concert called "Two Cats on a Prowl" on Nov. 15.

Joey Ayala has been described as a modern-day troubador. Noel Cabangon is the voice behind the popular tune "Kanlungan."

The rest of the November highlights at Merk's will see the return of Route 70, with special shows on Nov. 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Tito Fuentes, internationally acclaimed keyboardist, composer and musical director, joins Brazilia in a night of Brazilian music on Monday, Nov. 29.

Catch the rest of the October events at Merk's with Silk & Steel (Oct. 26), Jazz Festival with Sandra Lim, Eddie Katindig and Richard Merk (Oct. 27), Acoustic Jive (Oct. 28) and Cruzin' Band (Oct. 30).

For inquiries, call 757-4720 or 757-4721, or Maridel at 0917-7052270.

JOEY Ayala

NOEL Cabangon

'MASCARA Y SALSA'

Café Havana Greenbelt recreates the excitement of the Mardi Gras and the sensual rhythm of salsa as it celebrates Year 2 on Oct. 28 with the theme "Mascara y Salsa." Providing the pulsating beat will be Arriba, Guarana, Mai Castro y La Banda, Orquesta Fuego and Reggae Mistress. Free mojitos for those who come in mascaras, and a special prize goes to the most creative. Café Havana Malate will have a Halloween party on Oct. 30. Be in your scariest Halloween costumes, and get free mojitos and special prizes.

IZA Calzado

TROY Montero

'S' turns 3; new mag launched

SHOW TIME

A STAR-STUDDED evening happens on Oct. 27 as Global Publishing and Entertainment Corp. (GPEC) makes a double celebration for S Magazine's third anniversary and Inside Showbiz Magazine's grand launch.

The celebration takes place at Metro Concert Bar on West Avenue in Quezon City.

S Magazine, a full-color, glossy entertainment and lifestyle magazine, with entertainment writer and PR practitioner Aster A. Amoyo as managing director and publisher, is published monthly and circulated in the Philippines as well as in Japan, Hong Kong, the United States, Europe, Middle East, Taiwan, Italy, Singapore, Canada, Korea, Guam, Thailand, Australia and other countries.

S also contains features on fashion, lifestyle, health and beauty, music, movies, sports, special events, restaurants and bars.

The Oct. 27 program will be hosted by Juliana Palermo, Troy Montero, Iza Calzado and Drew Arellano, and will feature performances by Pops Fernandez, Kyla, Luke Mijares, Dingdong Avanzado, Jessa Zaragoza, K and the Boxers, True Faith, Ara Mina, Maui Taylor, Aubrey Miles, Christian Bautista, Maricar de Mesa, Jeni Hernandez, Sheryn Regis, Frenchie Dy, Masculados, Rainier Castillo, Divo, Criselda Volks, Lauren Novero, Josh Santana, Glaiza de Castro, Janelle Jamer, Abrakadabra, Marissa Sanchez, Roxie, Keekayz, Lynn Sherman, Girlie Sevilla, "Born Diva" finalists, Sexbomb Dancers and more.

A fashion show will feature the holiday collection of designer Gener Gozum.

The event is presented by GPEC in cooperation with Metro Concert Bar, Smart Talk & Text, IPS Inc. and Magic 89.9, Derm Clinic, Gener Gozum, MRN International Ltd., Kamayan, Classy Glassy, YSA, Red Ribbon, BNY, Nattural, Island Cove, Urban Spa, Leonardo, Basket Case, Party Packagers, Bizaare, Nestlé 3-in-1 and The Body Shop.

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5	dts	THE DOLL MASTER 12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm
6	Dolby	THE SIN 12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm
7	Dolby	FIRST DAUGHTER 11.00 am 1:35 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm 9:00 pm

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ROBEN	BOLD STAR
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QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON / NAG-AAPOY NA LAMAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TUKSO SI CHARITO
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2,3 & 4 FLYING DAGGERS / SHARK TALE / FIRST DAUGHTER / WHITE CHICK	
PREMIERE THEATRE	LADDER 49
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	LADDER 49
CINEMA-2	TUKSO SI CHARITO 2
CINEMA-3	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OPEN WATER
CINEMA-6	THE PUNISHER
CINEMA-7	RESIDENT EVIL. APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-8	EXORCIST. THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WHITE CHICKS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CELLULAR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DOLL MASTER
CINEMA-12	SIN
CINEMA-14	SHARK TAKE
CINEMA-15	SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
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LADDER 49 PG13 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00	SHARK TALE GP 12:00,1:50,3:40,5:30 STEAL R13 7:30,9:30	FIRST DAUGHTER GP 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10
WHITE CHICKS PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:05	SKY CAPTAIN GP 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	CELLULAR PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:00

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - P 81 - MON. TO FRI.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1. HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
FS: 11:20AM, 2PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM
LMF: 10 PM (PG-13 with Caution)

2. SHARK TALE
FS: 11:30AM, 1:30PM, 3:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM
LMF: 9:30 PM (GP)

3. FIRST DAUGHTER
FS: 12:50PM, 3:10PM, 5:30PM, 7:50PM
LMF: 10:10 PM (GP)

4. WHITE CHICKS
FS: 12PM, 2:30PM, 5PM, 7:30PM
LMF: 10 PM (PG-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE LADDER 49
FS: 11:40AM, 2:15PM, 4:50PM, 7:25PM LMF: 10 PM
(PG-13)

For more information
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1	CELLULAR 11:10, 1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 8:50, 11:10 PG-13
2	WHITE CHICKS 10:45, 1:15, 3:45 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 PG-13
3	SHARK TALE 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10 8:20, 10:30 GP
4	FIRST DAUGHTER Sneak Preview 12:05, 2:35, 5:05 7:35, 10:30 GP

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CINEMA 1	WHITE CHICKS 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:55 PG13
CINEMA 2	CELLULAR 11:35, 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55 PG13

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CINEMA 1 THX — LADDER 49 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

Cinema	Movie	Times
2	THE DOLL MASTER	11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5.50, 7:55, 10.00
3	STEAL	11:35, 1:40, 3.45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00
4	THE SIN	11:35, 1:40, 3.45, 5.50, 7:55, 10.00
5	CELLULAR	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6	WHITE CHICKS	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10.00
7	SHARK TALE	11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10.00
8	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10.00
9	SKY CAPTAIN	12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
10	WIMBLEDON	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	CELLULAR	10:55, 1:15, 3:35, 6:00, 8:20, 10:00
2	THE DOLL MASTER	10:20, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
3	LADDER 49	10:20, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4	THE SIN	10:40, 12.55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10.00
5	WHITE CHICKS	10:55, 1:15, 3:25, 6:00, 8.20, 10:00
6	STEAL	11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:45,
7	SKY CAPTAIN	10:55, 1:15, 3:35, 6:00, 8:20, 10:00

METRO EAST
682-8193/99 / 682-8280

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	THE SIN	11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
2	LADDER 49	10:20, 12:30, 2.40, 7:00, 9:10
3	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	11.40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9.00
4	SKY CAPTAIN	10:30, 1:10, 3.50, 6.30, 9.10
5	CELLULAR	10:25, 12.50 3:15, 5.40, 8:05, 10:30
6	SHARK TALE	10.50, 12.50, 2.50, 4:50, 6:50, 8.50, 10.30
7	WHITE CHICKS	11.50, 2.30, 5:10, 7.50, 10:30
8	THE DOLL MASTER	10:50, 1:10, 3:30, 5.50, 8.10, 10.30

NOVALICHES
935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	LADDER 49	11:00, 1:25, 3.50, 6:15, 8.40
2	WHITE CHICKS	10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
3	THREE	12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15
4	FENG SHUI	11;00, 1:20, 3:40, 6.00, 8.30
5	SHARK TALE	10:30, 12:30, 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30
6	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15
7	RESIDENT EVIL 2	11:00, 1:20, 3.40, 6.00, 8:25
8	SKY CAPTAIN	10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5.45, 8:20

Citisquare MALABON
288-0985/2575

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	LADDER 49	10:50, 1:15, 3.40, 6:05, 8.30
2	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30
3	THE PUNISHER	11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30
4	THE TOOL BOX MURDERS	10.55, 12.50, 2.45, 4.40, 6.35, 8.30

CAINTA
240-4661

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	THE SIN	10.55, 1.25, 3.55, 6.25, 8.55
2	WHITE CHICKS	12.50, 3.30, 6.10, 8.50
3	THE DOLL MASTER	1.40, 2.00, 4.20, 5.40, 9.00
4	TUKSO SI...CHARITO 2	10.20, 12.20, 2.20, 4.20, 6.20, 8.20

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6. Anna Mae Tuazon, Taytay Rizal
7. Sim David, Silang Cavite
8. Divina Alvarez, Malate Manila
9. Vinchi Soliman, Antipolo City
10. Ivy Rosal, Antipolo City
11. Dennis Yap, Sta. Ana Manila
12. Lady Abigael Bobiles, Bacoor Cavite
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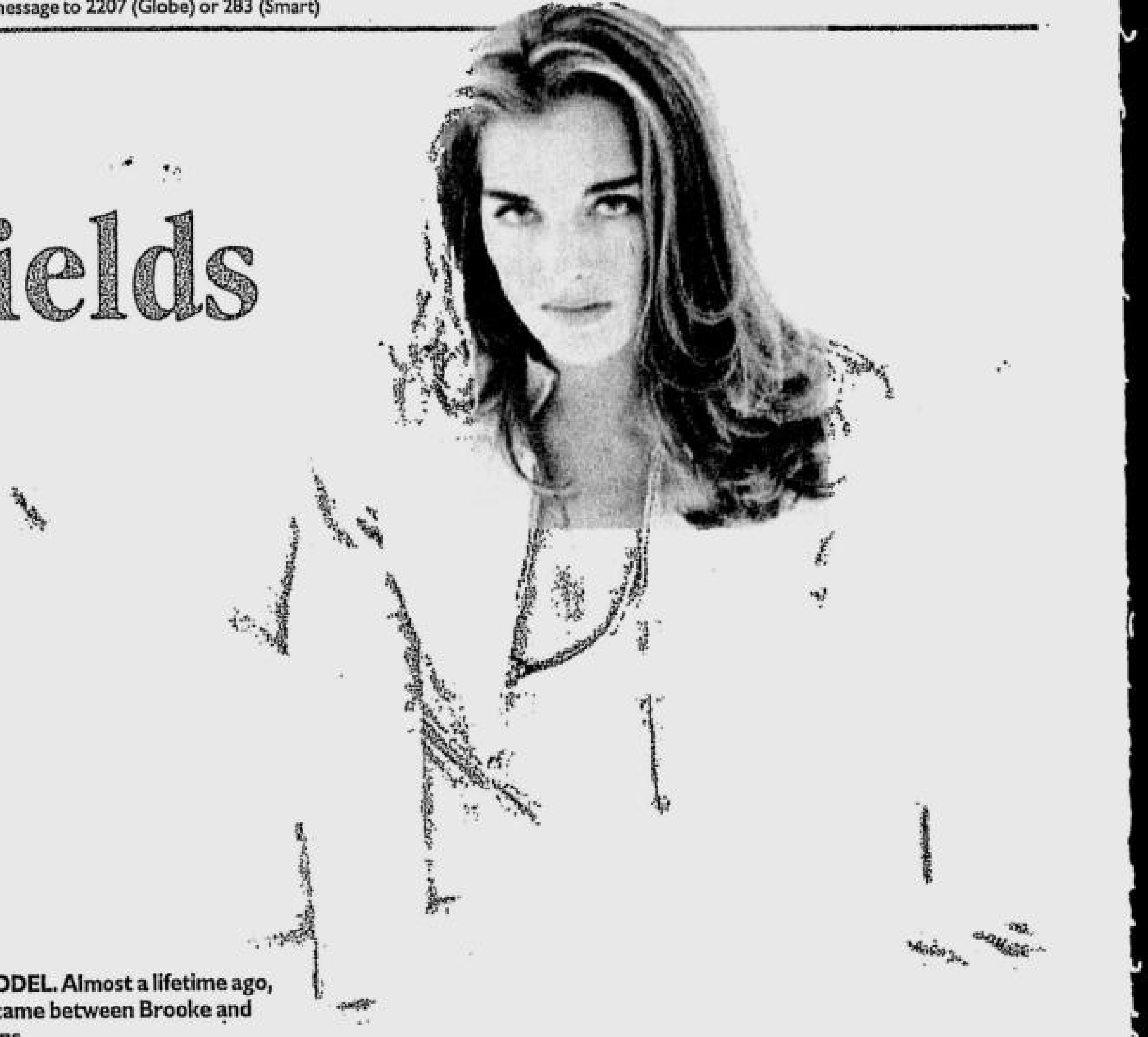
Motherhood becomes Brooke Shields



ROLE MODEL. Almost a lifetime ago, nothing came between Brooke and her Calvins.

NEW YORK—It was nearly a lifetime ago that Brooke Shields shocked the world as a knowing child prostitute in the film "Pretty Baby" and told us that nothing came between her and her Calvins.

As that rare creature who navigated her way from child stardom to a successful adult career, Shields looks back on it all as a fun time, a great opportunity. But now that she has a baby of her own, she's wary about having her daughter follow her into the spotlight.

"I just don't want to deny who she is naturally," says Shields, now 39. "The business is very different now. Kids are a lot more precocious. They're a lot more sexually aware. It wasn't like that for me when I was a kid. We were kids. We really just were kids."

For now, Shields is toting 17-month-old Rowan to the Broadway musical "Wonderful Town," a project she calls the perfect complement to her new life as a mother.

Latecomer

Rowan watches the singing and dancing with wide eyes. When Shields snaps her fingers as part of a big swing number, her daughter imitates it by pinching her fingers together and making a "clock!" noise with her mouth.

"She thinks that's snapping so I let her think that's snapping," Shields says with a laugh. "She does this really funny, awkward funny little dance."

Munching on pizza backstage at the Al Hirschfeld Theater, Shields says motherhood has made her appreciate comedy—something she fell into late in her career in the TV sitcom "Suddenly Susan."

"I've just noticed that I'm OK with being happy in my work. I find that it's just as valid if I'm having a good time. I don't have to be suffering for it to be good or for it to be art," she says.

Not that she doesn't still enjoy a challenge. She had just two weeks to prepare for her role as Ruth Sherwood, a tough-talking journalist from Ohio in the Leonard Bernstein, Betty Comden and Adolph Green musical. She took over the role from Donna Murphy, who earned a Tony nomination for the part.

It was a daunting task, but for Shields, it fell into the category of the Eleanor Roosevelt adage: You must do the thing you think you cannot do.

"It sort of terrified me," Shields says, "so I basically had to say yes."

To the world, it would seem the former model is playing against type as Ruth, a brassy, sharp-tongued woman who never gets her man. But Shields says she identifies with the old-fashioned "broad" who fends off her vulnerability with a wry sense of humor.

Audiences appreciate the comic turn and so did the critics. Her onstage battle with a stubborn sofa bed "recalls the great Lucille Ball at her most physically hilarious," wrote Associated Press Drama Critic Michael Kuchwara, while Ben Brantley in The New York Times said Shields was "an unpretentious delight."

Jennifer Hope Wills, who co-stars as Ruth's sister, Eileen, says she grew up playing with a Brooke Shields Barbie doll and other members of the cast tried to mimic her iconic eyebrows or buy the jeans she wore.

Princeton thesis

Celebrity has been a fact of life for Shields as long as she can remember. She started modeling at 11 months and never left the public eye, with controversial early roles in "Pretty Baby" and as a scantily clad castaway in "Blue Lagoon."

She examined the subject herself while a student at Princeton University, where she wrote her thesis on "Pretty Baby" and other Louis Malle films. In the movie, she portrays a child who lives in a brothel with her mother; a photographer falls in love with the young girl. Years later, Shields read accusations that she had been exploited, but it didn't fit with her memory.

As she grew into a bona fide star, the world watched her successes and heartbreaks, including her failed marriage to tennis star Andre Agassi and her professional break from her mother, who managed her career until the 1990s. Before Rowan's birth, a nurse leaked the news that Shields was having trouble getting pregnant with husband Chris Henchy and was undergoing fertility treatments.

Shields hasn't been shy about discussing her troubles. She's finishing a book now called "Down Came the Rain: My Journey Through Postpartum Depression," due out in May.

It's the third time Shields has parachuted into a Broadway musical in midrun. She replaced other actresses in both "Grease" and "Cabaret." She calls the two-week rehearsal period "kind of devastating" and "almost not fair," but relishes rising to the task.

"It's made me realize a capacity and a potential that I have that I thought I did, but now I can feel it and see it every night," she says. "So I think that to me and my career is priceless."

But the most important change for her career, she says, is having a child who gives her a new perspective.

"I think it makes me cognizant of wanting to be happy," she says. "You know when you're younger and single and an actress, there's a kind of angst about it all . . . And then when you have a child you realize that your life really begins there, and that this is all just a bonus." *AP*

BEAUTIFUL BABY. Brooke played a child prostitute in Louis Malle's "Pretty Baby." Years later at Princeton, she wrote a thesis on it.

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3 THE SIN
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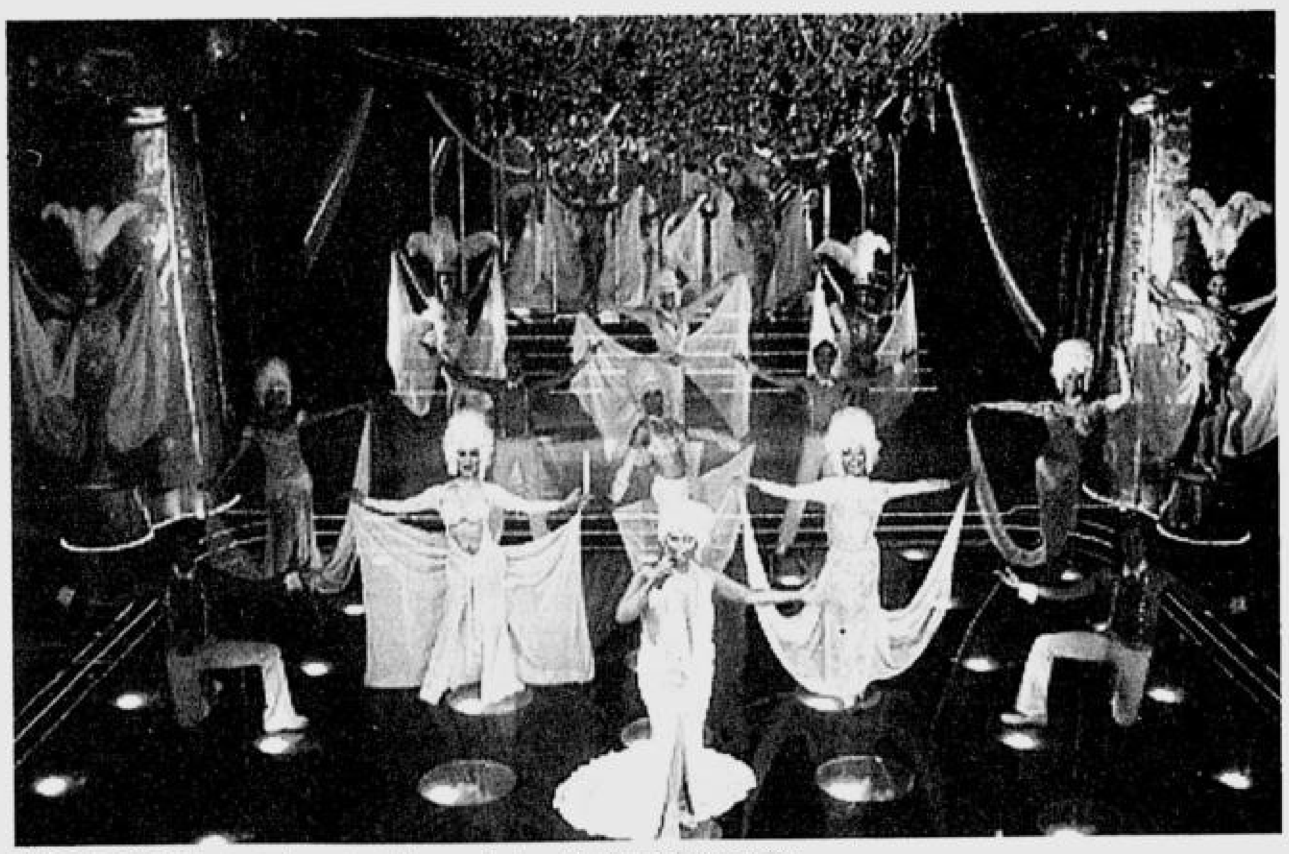

WORLD-CLASS entertainment at the new hot spot in Mandaluyong City

Club Mwah! the new place to be

WEAR your best masquerade costumes, put on your masks and have a great time at Club Mwah! Theater Bar as it celebrates Halloween with a bang on Oct. 29 and 30.

Club Mwah! is on the third level of The Venue Tower at 652 Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City.

The fun begins at 9 p.m. with nonstop dancing until 11 p.m. when a Las Vegas-style show unfolds on stage. Adaptations from Broadway hit shows come to life with Club Mwah! performers.

To liven the night even more, prizes will be given away to guests wearing the most unique costumes.

Entrance is P500 inclusive of a drink.

Club Mwah! is now the place to be after dark. Not your usual watering spot, it is a heady mix of eclectic interiors, upbeat dance music, world-class entertainment and first-rate food and drinks.

Barely a month old, Club Mwah! has modern lights and sounds equipment, a lighted dance floor, a two-level viewing area, six seating sections, a well-appointed Quiet Room and a complete bar.

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The whole place is decorated with plush red sofas and elegant stools mixed with varying shades of black and gray. The entryway is lined with mirrors.

The Quiet Room where guests can have privacy and hold private functions is done in a mix of gray and animal prints with touches of silver and fuschia.

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